

EPA Data Governance Council

Meeting Summary – October 26, 2020

Data Discussion Takeaways

- The Chief Data Officer (CDO), Chief Architect, and Chief Geospatial Officer conducted data discussions with EPA Regions and Program Offices. The Data Governance Council received a briefing summarizing the results of the effort.
- Nearly all programs and all regions were included in the data discussions. However, in depth conversations have not yet taken place with the Office of Research and Development (ORD), Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention (OCSPP), Office of Inspector General (OIG) or Office of General Counsel (OGC).
- The DGC discussed several topics including the Agency's approach for tracking data management spending and its relationship to Agency FITARA processes, EPA's approach for gathering citizen science and drone data, and challenges related to EPA's facilities data.
- The DGC also discussed opportunities for improving data quality.
 - A suggestion was made to contact statistical agencies to see how they approach data quality. For [example the US Census](#).
 - It was noted that EPA has efforts underway to map data to other biomedical lexical and ontological resources.
 - It was noted that the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology put out a new report on "[A Framework for Data Quality](#)".

Data Skills Assessment

- The Data Skills Assessment is progressing with development of the survey.
- Eleven participants from a branch within the Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM) provided feedback on their experience taking the survey.
 - The participants represented a range of grades, job positions, and years of service.
 - Feedback included defining terms clearly and increasing consistency in answers (i.e. Likert scale).
- Region 1 will pilot the survey before Agency-wide rollout.
 - The pilot communications plan includes a virtual campaign, creating email templates, and encouraging management interactions to build support.
 - The pilot will begin in January 2021.
- Upcoming Activities include the following:
 - Reviewing the draft survey with EPA's Labor and Employee Relations (LER).
 - Implementing the pilot communications plan.
 - Capturing the questions to be addressed in analysis of survey feedback.
 - Meeting with the Interim Capacity Assessment Team to discuss common goals and avoid duplication efforts.

Data Call for U.S. GEO

- EPA's Office of Air and Radiation (OAR) requested assistance in responding to the US Group on Earth Observations (USGEO)'s inter-agency data call on the purchase of non-Federal environment or geospatial data.
- DGC members were asked to provide information about geospatial data they purchase from non-federal sources. The deadline for collecting this information is **Monday, November 9th**.
- The US Group on Earth Observations (USGEO) is a subcommittee under the [National Science and Technology Council](#) that coordinates Federal activities related to earth observations and Earth system data management. More than a dozen agencies, including EPA, participate in USGEO.
- USGEO is working to develop best practices for procuring non-Federal environmental and geospatial data.
- To avoid duplicative entries, OAR asked that the region or national program that procures the data be the one to report it.

Action Items

- The CDO will organize an overview of the [Environmental Dataset Gateway \(EDG\)](#) for a future DGC meeting.
- The CDO will reach out to the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention (OCSPP) and ORD to set up data discussions.