Streamlining Air Emissions Data

In the mid-1980s sources regulated by the State Implementation Plan and federal Continuous Emission Monitoring (CEM) regulations were submitting quarterly excess emissions reports that were inconsistent with federally mandated reporting requirements. The inconsistency and randomness in the quarterly reports made the review process difficult and time consuming. To resolve this issue, Utah needed a rule that would establish consistent reporting requirements for all CEM regulated sources in the State.

The Department of Environmental Quality's Division of Air Quality (DAQ) staff invited Utah's electricity generating utilities to join workshops intended to develop a standardized hard copy reporting format and a new "Continuous Emission Monitoring Program" rule. After several years, DAQ developed the State Electronic Data Report that replaced the hard copy report format.

Electronic reporting gave industry the opportunity to install software programs that collect and monitor emissions data that allowed them to then develop their own electronic report. This reduced reporting time to a few hours, rather than the usual three to four days. DAQ also developed an Excel workbook program that reduces review time from 12 weeks to 5 weeks. This program provided DAQ with a comprehensive and consistent review of each source's electronic report. In addition, the DAQ's review program writes a response letter to the reporting source, a memorandum insert, conducts a High Priority Violator review, and develops pivot tables based on reported data. The pivot table provides DAQ with a thorough, precise, and condensed look into events that occurred during the reporting period for each source. Through a collaborative effort, the DAQ and industry streamlined a once cumbersome process to save time and money for both parties.

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