DatAssess – Scalable Tools for Independent Electronic Data Review and Assessment

Sean Kolb, CSC Terry Smith, EPA 2014 National Environmental Monitoring Conference August 7, 2014



- What is DatAssess?
- DatAssess Key Components and Features
- Web-based Electronic Data Review
- How Does it Work?
- Why Use Web-based Electronic Data Review?
- Benefits and Successes



- A set of standardized business processes, systems and web-based tools used to manage all aspects and stages of environmental measurement projects.
- DatAssess provides analytical data of known and documented quality to its customers in a cost-effective and efficient manner.



- Developed for and currently used by EPA for environmental measurements.
 - Environmental Response Laboratory Network (ERLN) and Contract Laboratory Program (CLP)
- Can be applied to any large monitoring / measurement program that involves laboratory analyses (e.g., clinical, food, agricultural and forensic).



- Quality Assurance Project / Sampling Plan
- Logistics, Tracking and Communications
- Data Management
- Financial Management
- Performance Management
 - Project-level (electronic data review)
 - Program-level (business analytics)
- Access to qualified laboratories that can provide computerreadable electronic laboratory reports



- Processes and tools based on best practices for environmental project management.
- Scalable, modular design enables users to use as is or select a variety of features ala carte to support any size project.
- Easy-to-use centralized web-based tools that are data driven and roles based.
- Access to over 150 pre-qualified public and private laboratories with toxic industrial chemical, biological and radiological analytical capabilities.

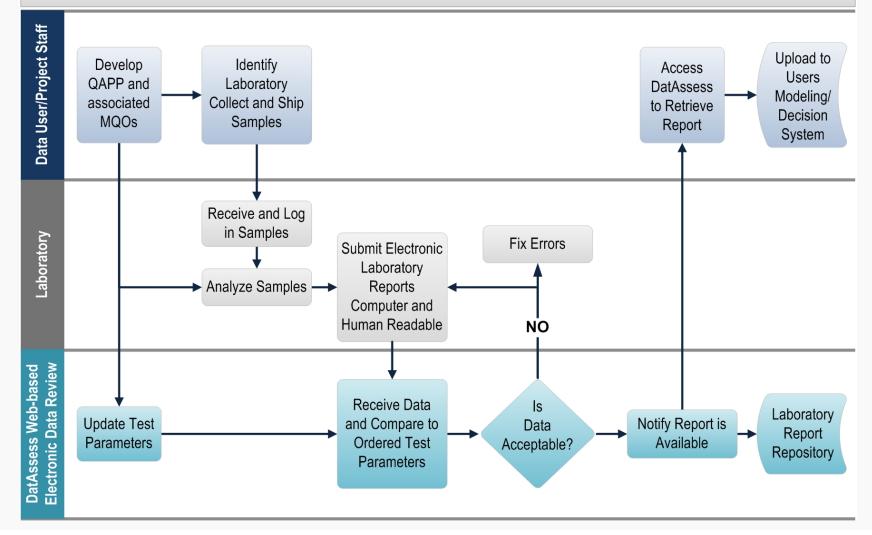
- DatAssess's main product for routine projects are Webbased Electronic Data Review results.
 - Most frequently used DatAssess component
 - All other DatAssess functions support the delivery of this product
 - Web-based Electronic Data Review results are replacing the laboratory data package as the primary product to EPA DatAssess customers.

How Does Web-based Electronic Data Review Work?

- Users selects an existing set of measurement quality objectives (MQO) from the system or create their own.
 - MQOs are sent to the laboratory and include all data quality indicators (DQI) used to interpret the degree of acceptability or utility of data to the user.
 - Electronic data reporting requirements are also sent to the laboratory for both computer-readable and human-readable (e.g., PDF) data.
 - Laboratory receives and analyzes samples and uploads data to DatAssess's Web-based Electronic Data Review module.
 - User informed that results are available.

Web-based Electronic Review Process

DatAssess's Web Based – Electronic Data Review Process



- Web-based Electronic Data Review automates data quality assessment by replacing most manual assessment processes saving time, money and ensuring data are of known and documented quality.
- This enables users to:
 - Refocus human interactions on interpreting and using results
 - Leverage technology to reduce costs and improve quality
 - Receive assessed laboratory measurement data in a more timely manner with greater confidence in the results
 - Easily import qualified laboratory data into project-specific modeling and decision tools



Quality Assessment is Expensive

- The collection of environmental measurements costs agencies and organizations millions of dollars each year.
- Verifying the quality of environmental measurements in order to make informed decisions incurs additional costs through the process of data review.



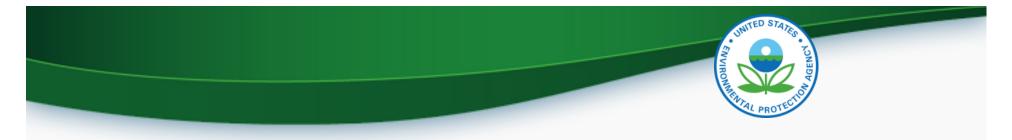
Quality Assessment is Time Consuming

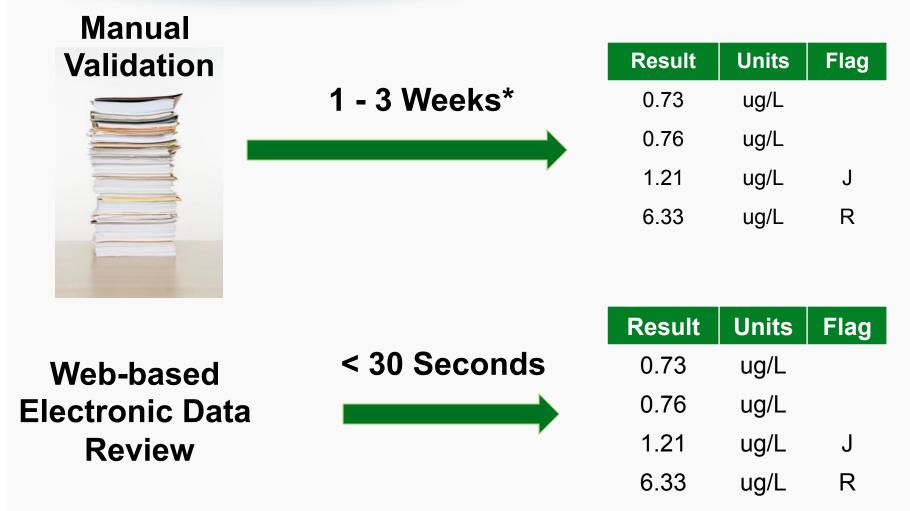
- Accurate and useful quality assessment requires extensive time to verify and validate analytical information.
- Complexity and volume of information directly affect the time required to validate data.
- Manual quality assessment practices introduce additional opportunities for error.



Poor Data Quality is Costly

- Data related delays when making remedial, regulatory, removal or emergency response decisions increases overall cost.
- Making inaccurate or poorly informed decisions, increases legal costs and reduces public trust.
- Without a standardized process for collecting, assessing and reviewing data, making accurate comparisons across multiple data sources becomes increasingly difficult.







Terry Smith Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Environmental Response Laboratory Network (ERLN) (202) 564-2908 smith.terry@epa.gov