

WEB-BASED ERPIMS APPLICATIONS

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Introduction

AFCEE maintains the Environmental Resources Program Information System (ERPIMS) database for the Air Force. This database contains over 43 million records, with information regarding site location, hydrogeology, analytical history, and remediation activities, all in a standard data structure. However, this information is useless unless it can be recalled and used in site-specific applications.

Discussion

One of the unappreciated effects of electronic data storage is that the electronic data becomes the historical record. Because of its ease of retrieval and manipulation, that is the data which is used in subsequent applications, not the print record. AFCEE performs a number of quality control checks to ensure the quality of the data going into the database. It also assists users in data retrieval. Data retrieval can take two forms: a data dump in which large amounts of information about a particular base, site, or region is exported to a user for subsequent use in their own applications. This takes time to structure the query, extract the information, and export it to the user. The alternative approach is to use web-based interfaces which allow users to directly query ERPIMS themselves. These interfaces can be graphical or not, and allow users in remote locations to quickly obtain the information they seek. A general caveat is that the information out is no better than that which went in. That aside, AFCEE has created several applications which combine GIS and traditional ERPIMS information to allow one to extract usable, readily understandable data. These will be demonstrated.