

Cal/EPA Unified Program CERS Status Update: July 2013

Presented by Chris Allen at the July 9, 2013 CRUG Meeting

Assistance to CERS Business Users

- Cal/EPA appreciates most CUPAs taking the lead on their businesses user assistance.
- Cal/EPA will be developing more help documents in the future. Business Portal's Help Page recently updated with several Help Guides.
- Cal/EPA appreciates the many CUPAs that have updated their web sites to reflect new electronic reporting realities and links to CERS. If you not done this, please review your site and update it.
- CERS Technical Support staff performing ongoing assistance to multi-facility businesses to consolidate their facilities under a single CERS Organization.

CERS Central Restructuring

- Addition of Index and Search pages to help find things. Suggestions welcome on Index items.
- In coming months CERS Central home page will be page simplified/reorganized with primary focus toward business users.
- Reminder that CERS Central URL should be the only public URL. Others will not be supported.

Submittal Trends

- Approximately 41,000 facilities have reported at least once into CERS during 2013 as of June 30.
- This represents 35%-40% of regulated facilities having reported by the mid-year mark. The current trend is less than 4,500 new facilities reporting per month, which would indicate MANY facilities would not have reported by the end of 2013.
- UPAs should encourage/schedule their facilities to avoid a rush of submitting into CERS in late December. Cal/EPA servers could be overwhelmed by too much activity.
- CUPAs with delayed local reporting portal deployments need to be developing backup plans now. All facilities need to electronically report by the end of 2013.

Build Schedule

- CERS Updates/releases will normally be on Fridays during the lunch hour.
- In recent weeks warning messages now shown at top of portal pages several hours before a scheduled downtime.
- Build schedule or warning messages not guaranteed in other environments, although typically happen around the same time.
- CUPAs planning on using Training or Staging Environments for classes or other critical events (especially when scheduled outside of normal business hours) are encouraged to send a note to CERS Technical Support with the schedule to insure uptime.

Issues/Concerns of Note from CERS Technical Support

- Action Item processing by Regulators
 - Thanks for moving forward on older requests
 - Cal/EPA gave direction on timeframes for Regulator response to Action Items [in January](#).
 - If no response from a business within ~90 days after requesting additional information related to an Action Item, regulators should consider rejecting the Action Item and have business re-request.
 - Cal/EPA will eventually implement a feature to support regulators and Cal/EPA to track action items the regulator has initiated follow-up on before they act upon the request.
 - CUPAs implementing local reporting portals **MUST** sign into CERS on a regulator basis and act upon their Action Items.
 - Send URL of Action Items to CERS Technical Support that cause errors, or are no longer relevant and regulator can't delete or act upon.
- Local Reporting Requirements must be reported to Cal/EPA for inclusion in CERS.
 - Must also be in local ordinance or not enforceable.

Anticipated CERS Development Priorities for Remainder of 2013

- Assisting EDT implementers and CUPAs with their EDT implementations
- Implement Submittal Review enhancements (#14, #13, #25, and #62).
- Rewriting and streamlining code in the Business Portal's New Facility Wizard and the various pages in the Business and Regulator Portals for initiating and processing Action Items.
- Provide support for printing most/all forms (and document uploads?) of a submittal element as requested by many business users.
- Miscellaneous minor enhancement requests.

Going into 2014

- In first half of 2014 will look at revising/streamlining the automated emails and notifications features.
- Start assisting CERS Community with thinking about CERS3 efforts.
- Future priorities after that will come from Cal/EPA management and input via the CERS Enhancements listing from the CERS Regulator and Business User Groups.

Recent Additions/Changes to CERS

- Please read the "[Recent Additions/Changes to CERS: July 2013 Update](#)" document summarizing the most important changes/additions in CERS from January-June 2013.