The Water Data Exchange (WaDE) Program will enable the western states to share important water data with each other, federal agencies and the public. It also seeks to improve the sharing of federal water datasets that support state water planning efforts.

2013: WaDE Program Highlights

WaDE is a cooperative effort between the Western States Water Council (WSWC), representing the 18 Western states, the Western Governors’ Association (WGA), the Department of Energy (DOE), and Western Federal Agency Support Team (WestFAST). The focus of WaDE is to enable the states to share important water data (water availability estimates, water use by sector, and water allocation data) with each other, federal agencies and the public. WaDE is also interested in promoting and incorporating shared federal datasets concerning water management (streamgage data, snowpack and streamflow forecasts, reservoir storage and gage elevations, etc.) to assist the states, and make their water planning efforts easier.

2013 was a busy year for the WaDE program. After an extensive state review process, WSWC’s joint effort with Sandia National Laboratory to develop water availability “metrics” came to a close. The study resulted in maps of the western states with the relative availability, future demand, and cost to develop different water supply sources, including alternative supplies like wastewater effluent and brackish groundwater. These maps will be published on Sandia’s “Water and Energy in the Western and Texas Interconnects” project website. The maps link back to WaDE, where original state-provided data will be shared. Sandia hopes to use WaDE data if called upon to re-evaluate water availability in the West in the future.

Other notable events for the WaDE program include:

- Co-hosting a water-energy nexus workshop for water and electric utility managers in Denver, CO. A summary of the workshop is available on the WSWC website.
- Updating the WaDE infrastructure components to the latest schema version (v.0.2) and National Environmental Information Exchange Network (NEIEN) web services specifications.
- Synthesis of survey results gathered from the 18 WSWC member states into a significant publication about their water planning program data and capabilities (see the reverse).
The WaDE Portal: Getting the States Plugged In...

Much of the infrastructure for WaDE has been built, but the states also need to plug into the WaDE program for it to function as envisioned.

Databases, web services code, and the front-end mapping application used to find and access WaDE-hosted data have all undergone revisions and testing to ensure a robust and streamlined interface for portal users.

The latest WaDE template databases are now available for download in PostgreSQL (a free enterprise level DBMS for states that have an “open source” philosophy), and in Microsoft’s SQL Server, with a version in Oracle pending in 2014.

Online documentation that will guide the states through the installation process is under development. This will include step-by-step procedures on how to easily map and migrate information from the state’s native databases into the WaDE database.

In 2013, funding was procured for a grant partnership from the National Environmental Information Exchange Network (NEIEN) to facilitate the deployment process. The original state partners consisted of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Oklahoma, and Texas, with Texas’ TCEQ as the lead state and agency. Utah recently joined this partnership. Wyoming has also begun the deployment process. These states will be the first to “plug into” the WaDE portal and will provide many “Lessons Learned” for the remaining member states.

WSWC is currently exploring the potential for a second round of NEIEN funding for FY2015. We are looking for states that need additional funding and are interested in partnering on another grant application, to be submitted this fall.

For more information about WaDE, please visit http://www.westernstateswater.org/wade or contact Sara Larsen (email: saralarsen (at) wswc.utah.gov)