GRTS & ATTAINS:
Connecting the §319 Program’s Grants Reporting and Tracking System with TMDL, Listing, and Impairment Data

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What is GRTS?
(I’m so glad you asked!)

GRTS is a relational database, designed to track 319 program and watershed project information.

GRTS provides an effective means for EPA, states, territories and tribes, and the public to collect, maintain, and use programmatic data.

The GRTS environment also houses secondary database modules, such as the NPS Success Stories Database.

Each of these modules maintains a utility which queries ATTAINS to help populate 319 project data and/or Success Stories listing/impairment information.

All of this information is able to be extracted through Oracle business intelligence (OBI) in static data pulls, OR can be queried and used through Web Services.

Goals: To further integrate GRTS with other systems and increase the value of 319 data.
The last four years have led to a lot of changes to the Grants Reporting and Tracking System:

- User Interface improvements
- Simplified data entry & geo-referencing tools
- The addition of the NPS Success Story Database
- Beginning to capture Tribal 319 data & success
- ‘Circuit Rider’ approach to GRTS trainings

Data input is becoming easier, and information is being pushed to other systems! This means our data is accessed and used more than ever:

- Integration with the EPA’s Water Quality Framework (ATTAINS)
- EPA’s public-facing applications (DW Maps, How’s my Waterway?, etc.)
- Used by university researchers
Beta of EPA’s ‘How’s My Waterway?’ application, providing an easy-to-use public access point to integrated water program information (ATTAINS, GRTS, WQX, and more). Data live-imported via web services from GRTS and the NPS Success Stories Database!

Improvements to the Grants Reporting and Tracking System
How We Frame GRTS Data and Utility to State Users:

1. Our primary focus right now is on increasing access to and usability of 319 program data.
The Benefits of Connecting with ATTAINS

- The VAST majority of user time spent on data entry occurs within the Environmental/Drainage Area sections.

- To allow our users to streamline data entry effort, and use existing data resources, we are now extracting waterbody and drainage area information from ATTAINS to help populate data fields for 319 waterbodies, AND extracting impairment and listing info for NPS Success Stories.
How Functional Is It?

INTERNAL 319 USE OF ATTAINS DATA:
Overall, the tools we have built are highly functional for our purpose. However, we are working to develop a new utility that allows us to better-interface with the updated version of ATTAINS. This is in progress. Our challenge is to maintain functionality and utility across system versions.

EXTERNAL USE OF 319 DATA:
Web services for both the GRTS 319 Program and NPS Success Stories are up and running, and are 100% functional. They are also easily customized, and we will continue to expand their use.
On to the demo!

I’ll show how the 319/NPS program is currently using ATTAINS data