

Geo-Referencing and the Integration of Office of Water Information

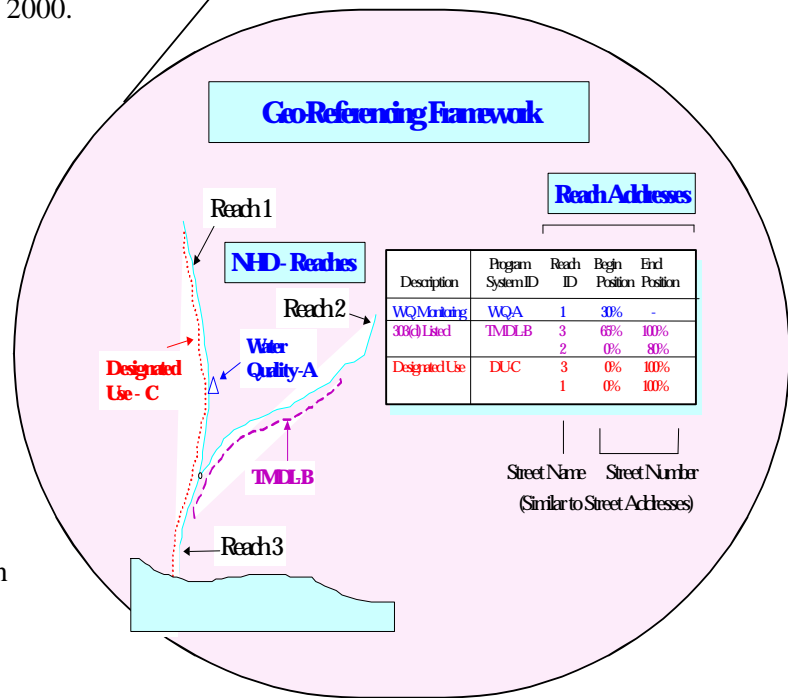
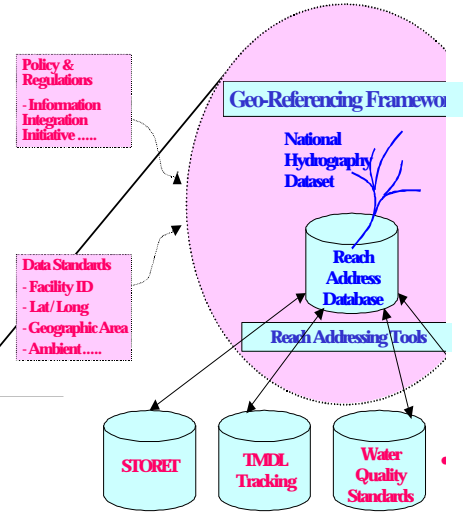
The Office of Water (OW) is currently building a geo-referencing framework which can integrate water information across the agency. The figure on the right shows some of the information which will be integrated. The geo-referencing framework, due for completion in June 2000, consists of the following components:

- **National Hydrography Dataset (NHD)**
 - Linear representation (1:100,000) of all U.S. waterbodies (rivers, lakes, ...)
- **Reach Addressing Tools such as the Reach Index Tool (RIT)**
 - Tools used to Assign Reach Addresses
- **Reach Address Database (RAD)**
 - Links Reach Addresses with Programmatic Information

Once the framework is complete, programs can use tools such as the Reach Index Tool to assign reach addresses to features of interest (see preliminary list at right). The reach addresses, along with program system identifiers, will be stored in the Reach Address Database, providing a common denominator for integrated queries of information across participating programs in OW and the Agency. EnviroMapper capabilities to perform these queries and display results are due November 2000.

The geo-referencing query ability will benefit program implementation & oversight, GPRA reporting, and the Public Right to Know. At click of a few buttons, staff and management at EPA and the States, as well as the public, will be able to observe and utilize all information related to a river or a watershed. This will greatly benefit activities such as Total Maximum Daily Loads, Integrated Permitting, Compliance Enforcement, Environmental Justice, and Unified Watershed Assessments.

Following is a preliminary list of entities that Office of Water programs will geo-reference in the following few years:



Office of Water Information
 3030
 3050
 National
 American
 Tribal L

