

1. 0 Introduction

Air pollution and its impacts on human health and the natural environment continue to be a major policy issue for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (formerly the Department for the Environment, Transport and Regions). The objective of this project is to collate and disseminate air quality information and data in line with the Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and the EC Directive on Air Quality Management and Assessment and associated Daughter Directives. This report details the progress of the project made from 1st August to 31st October 2001.

The objective of the project involves 4 principal elements:

1. Management of air quality data from monitoring networks
2. Dissemination of air quality data from monitoring networks
3. Provisional statistical summaries of air quality data
4. Maintenance and development of the National Air Quality Archive

The dissemination of air quality information is achieved through the use of NETCEN's Air Quality Information System (figure 1) which is able to present a large volume of wide ranging and regularly updated information to the end user via a number of different media:

1. *Freephone line.*

This service is updated hourly via the bulletin dissemination system and is widely available to members of the public.

2. *Teletext/ Ceefax*

This is updated hourly by the bulletin dissemination system and provides air quality information via the television making it widely accessible from peoples homes.

3. *Email bulletin*

Emails are currently dispatched daily to over 100 recipients. The service is available on request and bulletins can be tailored to the specific needs of the recipient.

4. *Web based access to archive*

The website is updated hourly via the bulletin dissemination system and is a very effective mechanism for providing both large data volumes and more meaningful summaries and statistics. A wide variety of data can be stored here allowing the end user to select the information most appropriate to them in a number of formats (graphical, numerical)

This provides a diverse range of people with access to up to date air quality information that is most appropriate to their individual needs. The AQ Information

System contains back up servers and systems to allow for full fault tolerance. The result is a highly reliable information dissemination system.

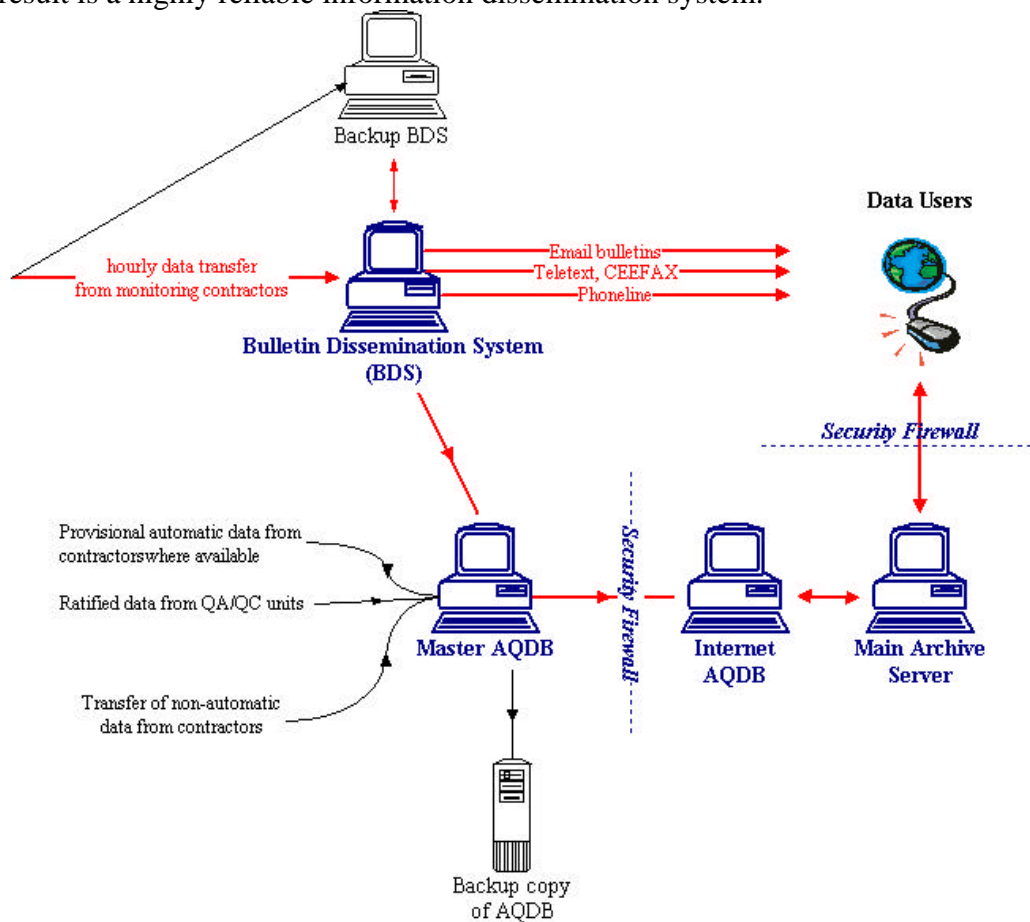


Figure 1.

Things to include in the report (according to contract)

Performance and usage statistics

the performance of, and changes to, the freephone telephone and bulletin services and TELETEXT/CEEFAX pages

Breakdowns and non-compliances

any significant breakdowns in the service and non-compliances with service-level agreements

- the progress on committed deliverables
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Details of next quarter

the programme of work for the next quarter

Enhancement of project

the proposals for enhancement of the service outside the scope of the contract.