



## Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

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### MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

FROM: PAUL BOSCO  
DIRECTOR  
OFFICE OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT

SUBJECT: Contractor Project Performance Data Uploads to the Project  
Assessment and Reporting System

In accordance with DOE O 413.3B, *Program and Project Management for the Acquisition of Capital Asset Projects*, (Order) Program Offices and Federal Project Directors (FPDs) are required to ensure that project performance data is uploaded monthly into the Project Assessment and Reporting System (PARS), the Department's central repository for key Departmental-level project information. Specific requirements are contained in Attachment 1 of the Order, Contractor Requirements Document (CRD), which sets forth requirements applicable for the contract to which it is inserted.

This memorandum provides notification that the two data formats that PARS currently accepts (Microsoft Access Database (MDB) and Comma Separated Values (CSV)) will be discontinued in early 2023. Office of Project Management (PM) staff are currently finalizing the replacement format in coordination with the Department's contractor community and primary cost and schedule toolset vendors, including Deltek, Oracle, and Web EVMS. The new format will be similar to the current CSV format but will be in JavaScript Object Notation (JSON) format. Projects not scheduled to reach CD-4, *Transition to Operations or Project Completion*, by January 2023, should work with the PM's Office of Project Controls and Policy (PM-30) team to plan and implement a move to the JSON format in early 2023.

While there are multiple reasons for the move to the JSON format, the primary ones are related to network security, operating system compatibility, lack of ongoing developer support for the MDB format, and leveraging the work being done by the toolset vendors that are building DOE specifications into their tools. The MDB format is based on a 2003 MDB file structure which Microsoft declared as obsolete starting in 2007. While use of MDB has continued, it is starting to fail in terms of operating system compatibility, size limitations, and ability to update. Most computers now in use have 64-bit operating systems while the MDB format was designed for 32-bit operating systems. This limits our collective ability to generate data in and support this format.

Since many DOE contractors use Deltek Cobra Software™ for their cost processor and use Primavera P6™ for scheduling, these vendors have agreed to update their tools by March 2023. WebEVM is also projected to be ready to support this date. Depending on acceptance testing, the system will cut over in March/April 2023 time frame. The current CSV format will still

work for a time, but this option will be turned off as soon as all contractors and projects are verified on JSON.

The ability to obtain the data directly from the contractor's cost and schedule tools will save many hours each month for contractors that must extract data, move it to a data store, and write the specific output files. For sites that need to use a local data warehouse to generate the JSON format output from SQL or other databases, the new schema is located at [https://pars.doe.gov/schema/schema\\_doc.html](https://pars.doe.gov/schema/schema_doc.html). This provides the JSON schema as presented at an Energy Facility Contractor Group (EFCOG) meeting on August 22, 2022. The new schema will be locked to allow sites to adapt and the tool vendors to finish their work to support it.

This new schema will be part of the updated PARS Contractor Project Performance (CPP) Upload Requirements document and co-exist with the Integrated Program Management Reports (IPMR) Data Item Description (DID) and the Contract Funds Status Report (CFSR) DID, for those contractors who have this requirement on contract. The IPMR requirement applies along with the CPP upload requirements. These three specifications are currently in separate documents and will be combined into a single document which will be issued in early FY 2023 to coincide with the move to the new JSON format. Data files in the old CSV format will continue to be referenced as "Flat Files" (FF) while data in the new JSON format will be referenced as "Data Sets" (DS) to minimize confusion.

Finally, Encore Analytics has been asked to build a tool to directly import the DOE JSON schema into Empower. While DOE PARS provides Empower to PARS users, there are many sites with their own license that currently cannot directly import the DOE format. This will provide a cleaner way for all who use their version of Empower to load and validate data between their local version of Empower and the DOE PARS version.

We continue to appreciate your diligence in meeting the Department's PARS project reporting requirements as we take this next step to improve data uploads and to reduce overall requirements on Federal project teams, contractors, and DOE PM. For additional information please contact Matthew (Zac) West at [matthew.west@hq.doe.gov](mailto:matthew.west@hq.doe.gov).

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