Using Business Objects and Web Intelligence to Inform Water Quality Assessment Decisions

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Data Management Tools Session

The National Water Quality Data Management Training Workshop

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Problem

 How can we speed up and our assessment process while allowing for flexible automation.

- Solution: SAP Business Objects Web Intelligence
 - Web Based Reporting tool that our IT implemented and maintains.
 - Customizable reporting that includes conditional formatting and formula writing, and input controls
 - Based on our data management system
 - This cut our assessment time by at least 50% if not more. It also decreases training time for new staff. Went from average of 120 days to 44 days.

Context

- 4300+ Assessment Units
- 2,000,000+ Data Points
- 3 Staff
- Assess Streams and Reservoirs

Process

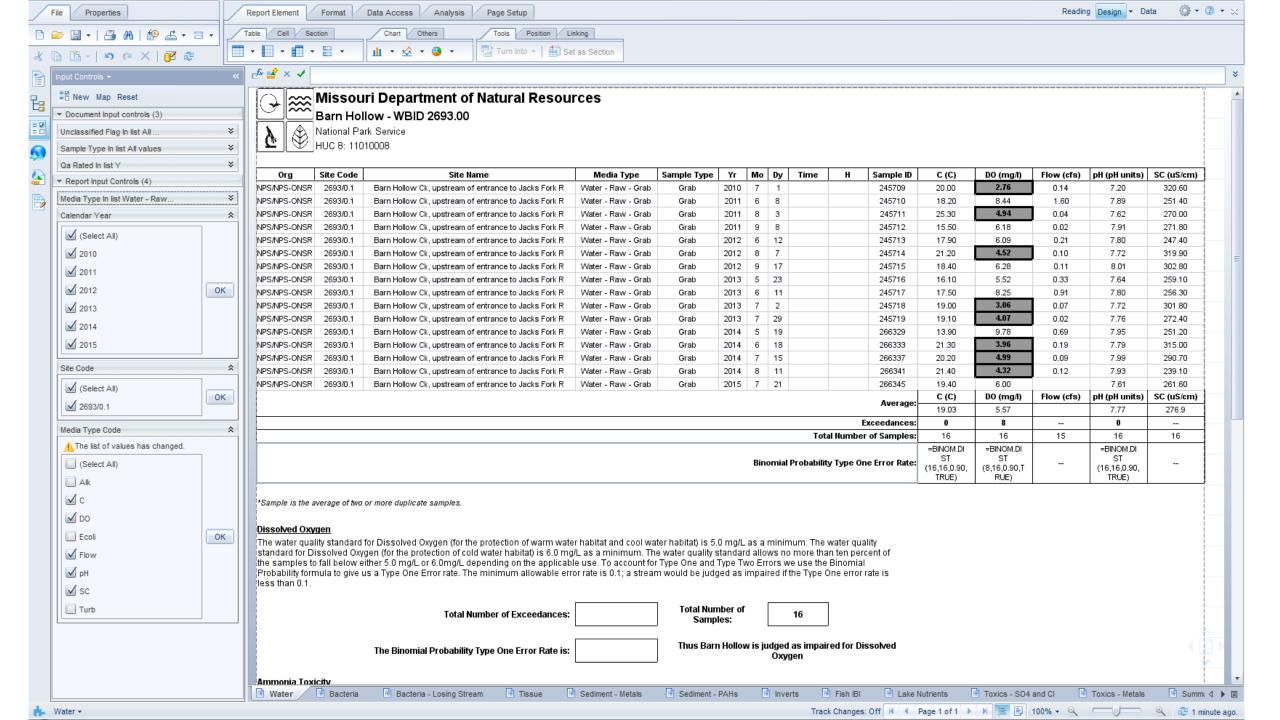
- How has the tool / process improved workflow?
 - Semi-Automated
 - Only internal data. We use external data but import it into our system.
 - Human element
 - Manual selection of AU to be assessed
 - Can pick and choose the following to use in assessment via input controls
 - Sites, sample numbers, dates, parameters, organization, QC, etc. pretty well anything tied to the sample data.
 - Once selections are made formatting and organizing of data is automatic
 - Conditional formatting to highlight exceedances, new data, etc.
 - Includes mathematical and logical formulas, can pass formulas to excel
 - Eg. Counts, means, geomeans,
 - Output to Excel or PDF
 - Most QC of data should be done before assessments, but small amount of QC for duplicate samples, Upstream/Downstream comparisons, the "exceptions", etc.

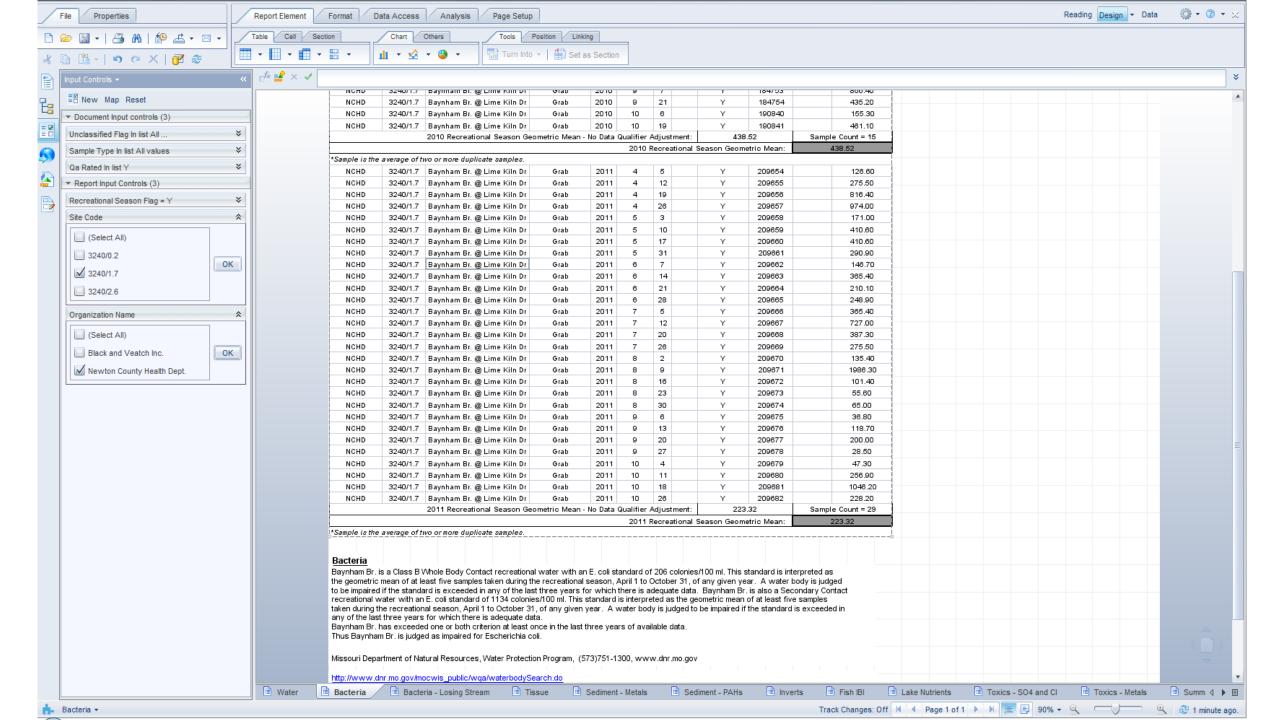
Process

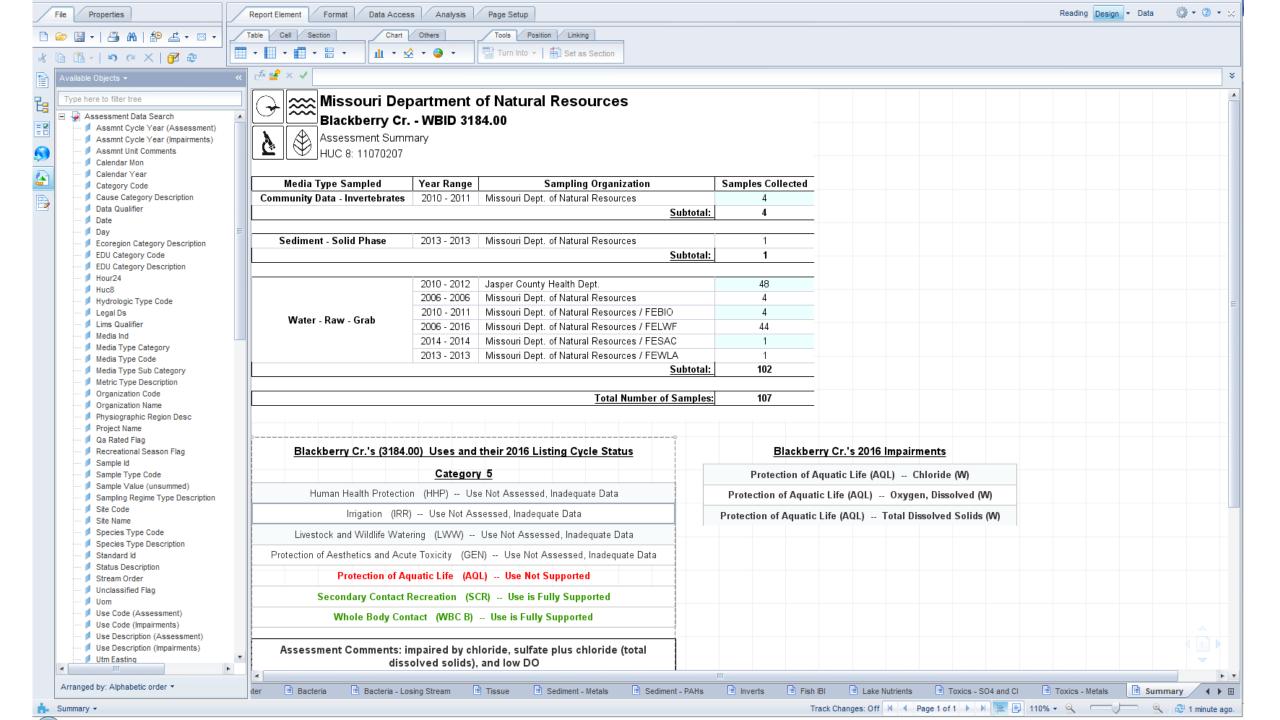
- Is the tool available for use?
 - Not open source, but should be implementable through most IT programs by their database management staff.
 - Used for auto generating 303(d) list and delist.
 - Summarizing pollutants and sources
 - Used for calculating 305(b) stats
 - Can be utilized for other programs as well
 - Eg. Permits and Compliance/Enforcement use it as well.

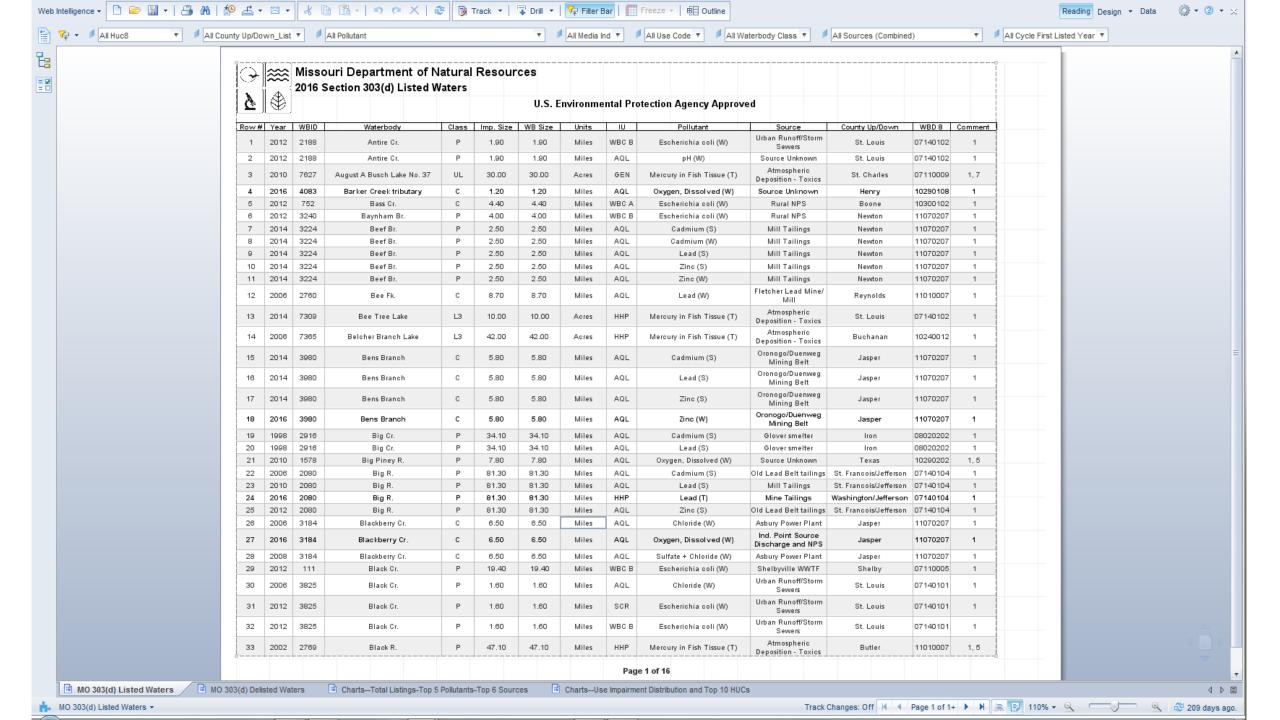
Saves Time

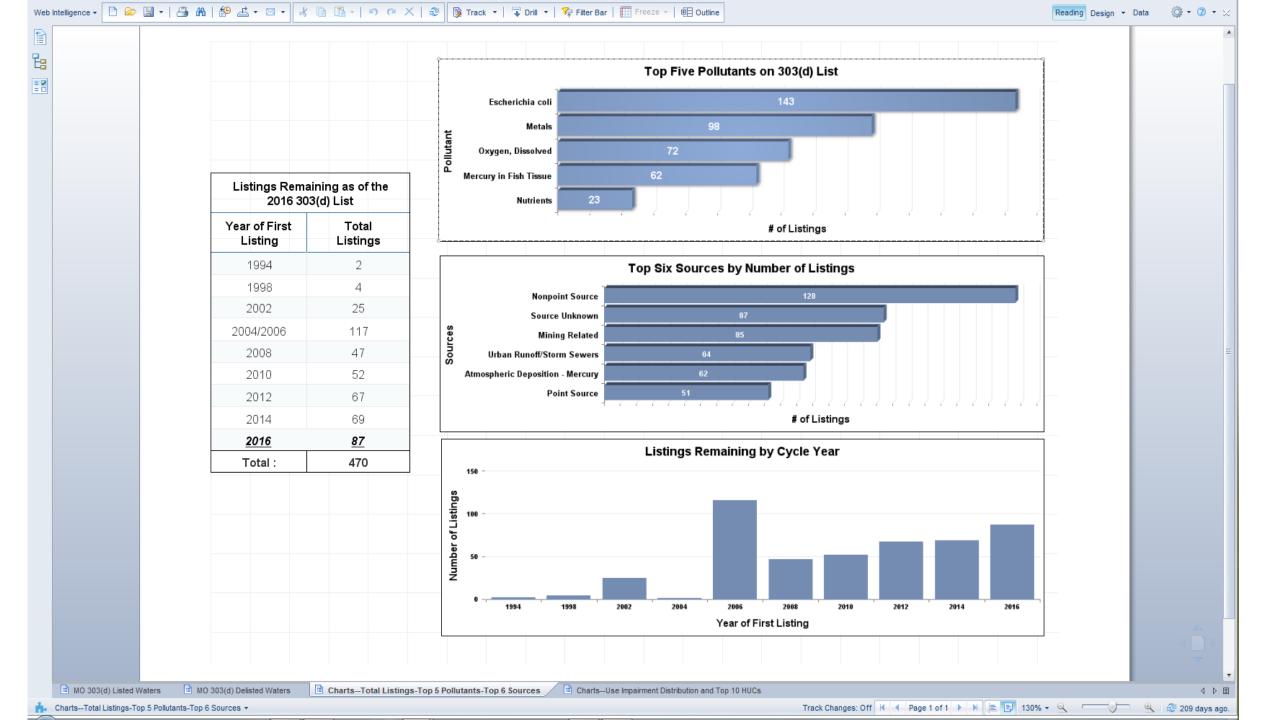
- Tool does 95% of the time consuming tedious, repetitive tasks
- Allows us to more effectively organize data to analyze it in different ways
 - Can group, create sections, and create breaks in the data and summarize for each
 - Eg. Can choose which sites to group together for an U/D comparison then create sections of the data and have summary statistics calculated for each automatically.
- The tool reports all media types at one time for each AU and also generates a summary of the available data and AU status from last assessment cycle

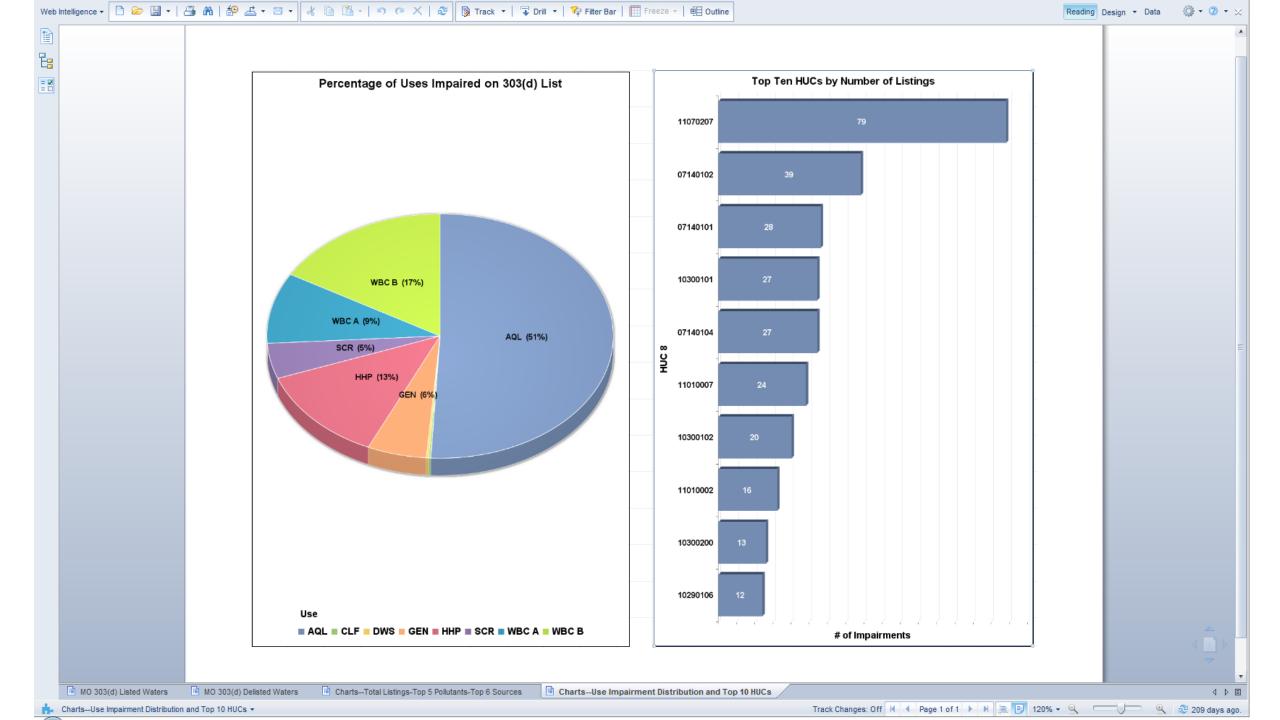












Lesson Learned

 We thought automation was not manageable, but with the right tools, a certain level of automation is possible and that automation can be flexible and customizable.

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