DRBC Data Checker Version 3.0 (February 2014)

<u>Introduction</u>

The Delaware River Basin Commission serves as the lead agency for data management for the Delaware Estuary PCB TMDL. Since 2005, the states of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware have been working with the DRBC to require PCB monitoring according to sampling, analytical and reporting requirements specified by the Commission (available at http://www.state.nj.us/drbc/quality/toxics/pcbs/monitoring.html). Point source dischargers are required to collect samples at least annually and report results to the Commission following these protocols. However, given the increase in volume of data submission and the continuation of errors in the electronically submitted data, additional measures are needed to ensure compliance with reporting protocols. The Commission has developed a data checker for the three required elements of data submission; Location file, Chain of Custody (COC) and Laboratory Electronic data Deliverable (EDD).

Review of the data prior to submission by a discharger will increase efficiency in data management. Common error messages are provided in this document. The datachecker is a Microsoft Access 2010 database and coding is written in Visual Basic (VB). Older version of Access can run this application.
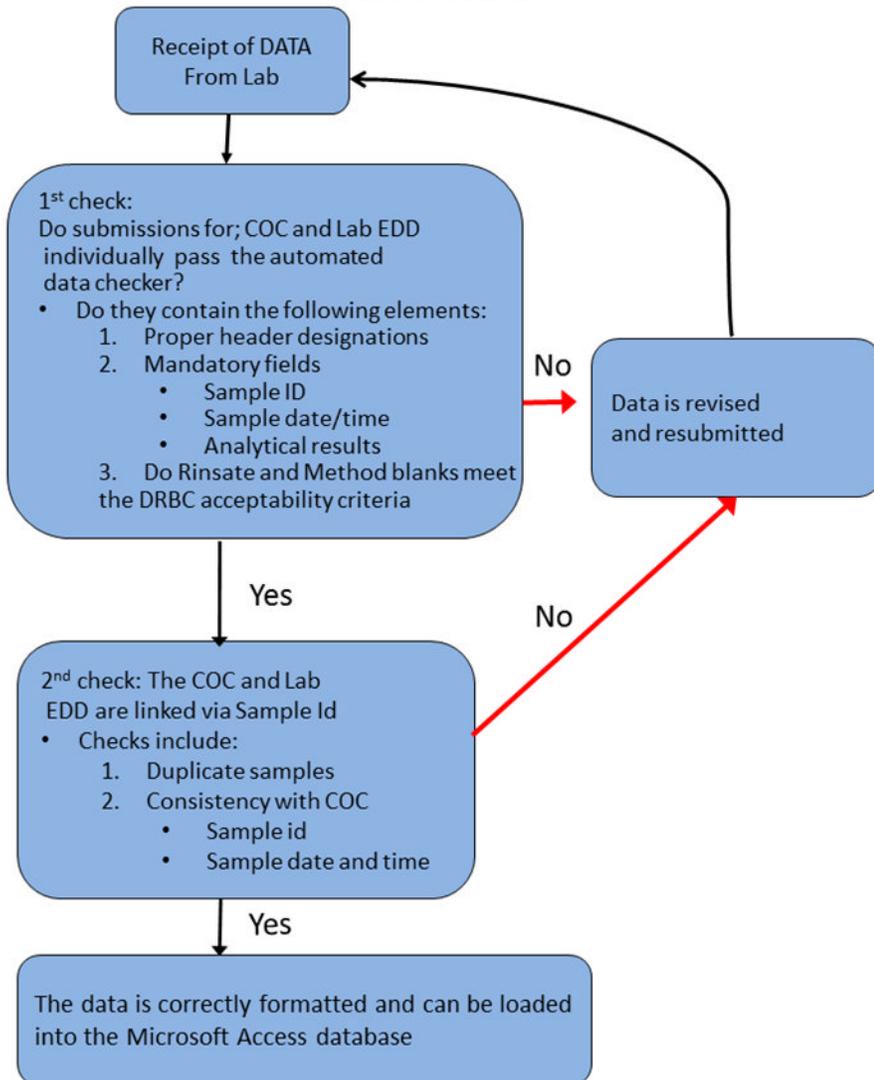
Operation:

The following steps are provided to assist in reviewing the electronic data deliverables. Please note that given the on-going nature of this effort, most dischargers are only required to check the COC and Lab EDD files, as the Location file is imported once and typically does not change.

Step 1.

Open data checker by double clicking on Access application and Select *Check Sample COC EDD*
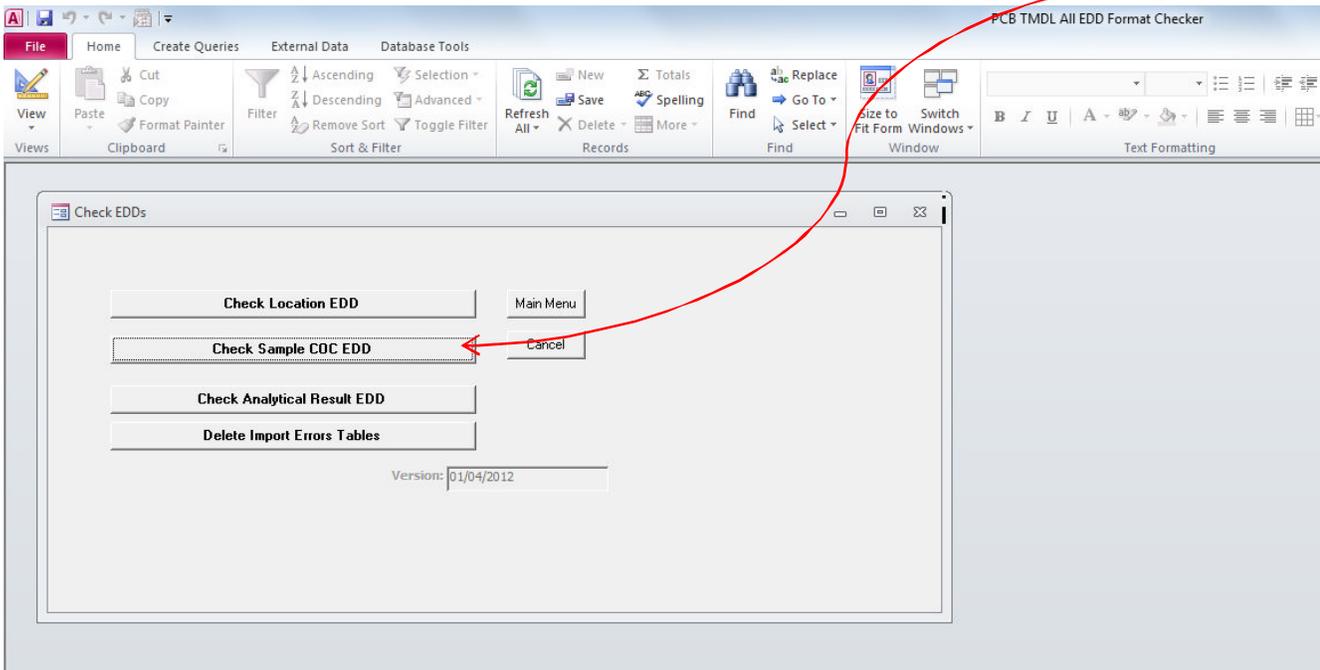
Step 2. Browse for the location of COC file and then SELECT Check Headers and Check EDD in that order.

*Note if Excel file is in .xlsx format (only Microsoft!!!) you will have to select *All Files *.** format then select file with the .xlsx extension.
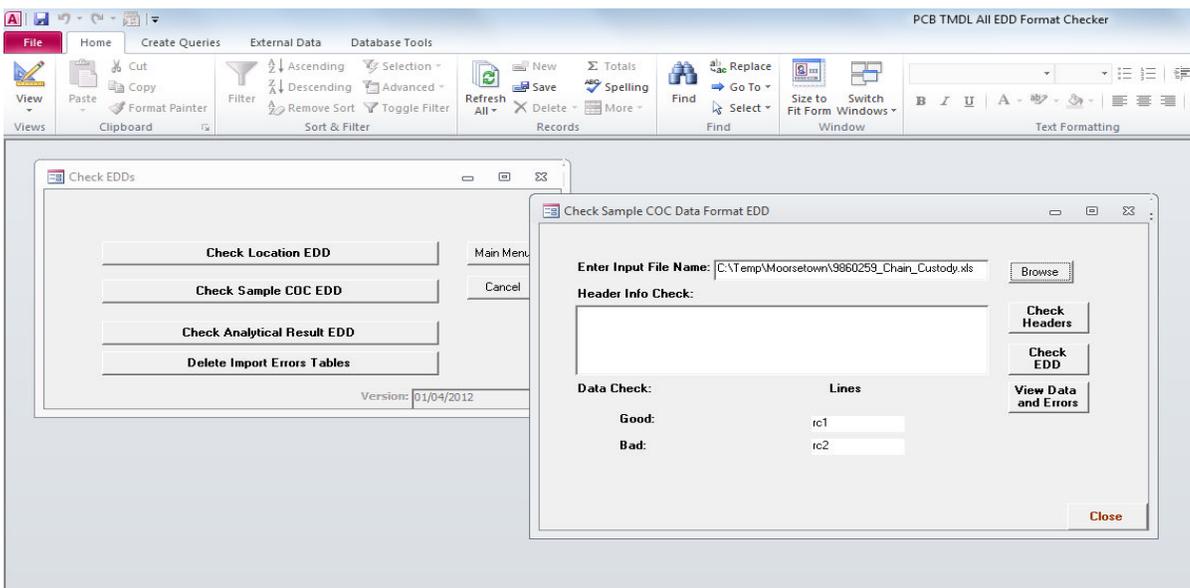
Check COC Headers
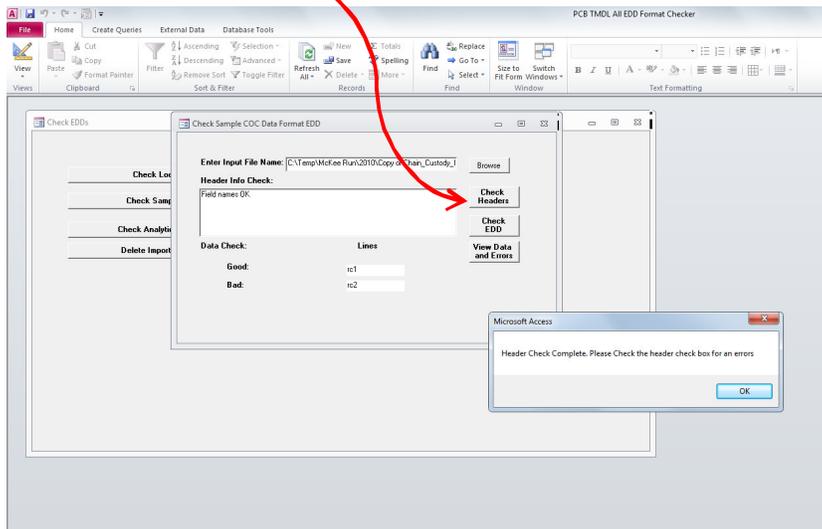
Check COC EDD
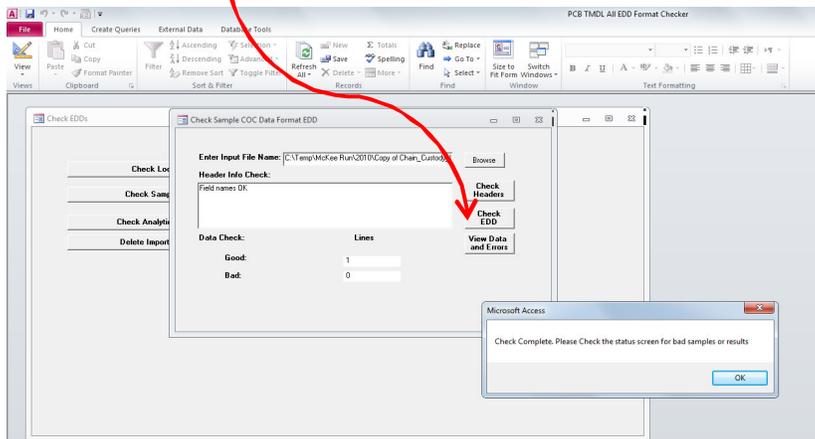
If all information is correctly formatted then a "receipt" will be generated confirming that the submission meets DRBC requirements. Please note that this check is independent, and only pertains to the COC. Further reviews will compare fields from the COC to the Lab EDD for consistency of sample ID and sample date and time

PCB TMDL Sample EDD Verifier Check Report

Delaware River Basin Commission
DELAWARE • NEW JERSEY
PENNSYLVANIA • NEW YORK
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
W W W . D R B C . N E T

|	
Date/Time	10/16/2014 9:18:09 AM
Permit #	PA0057479
Status	Sample COC EDD Verified and meets required format

Please remember to print and submit with your sample data

Step 3

Select *Check Analytical Result EDD.* Browse for the location of Lab EDD file and then SELECT Check Headers and Check EDD in that order as above. *Note lab EDD files must be in .csv format
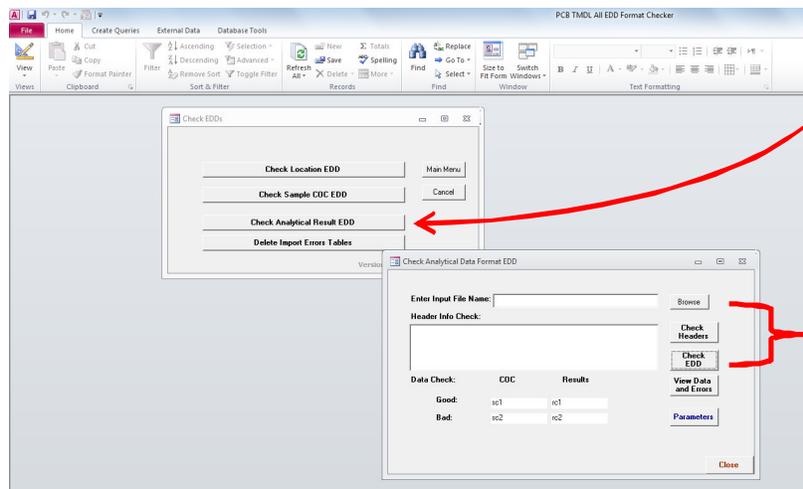
Again, if all the data is properly formatted and consistent between the COC and selected elements in the Lab EDD then a second "receipt" will be generated.
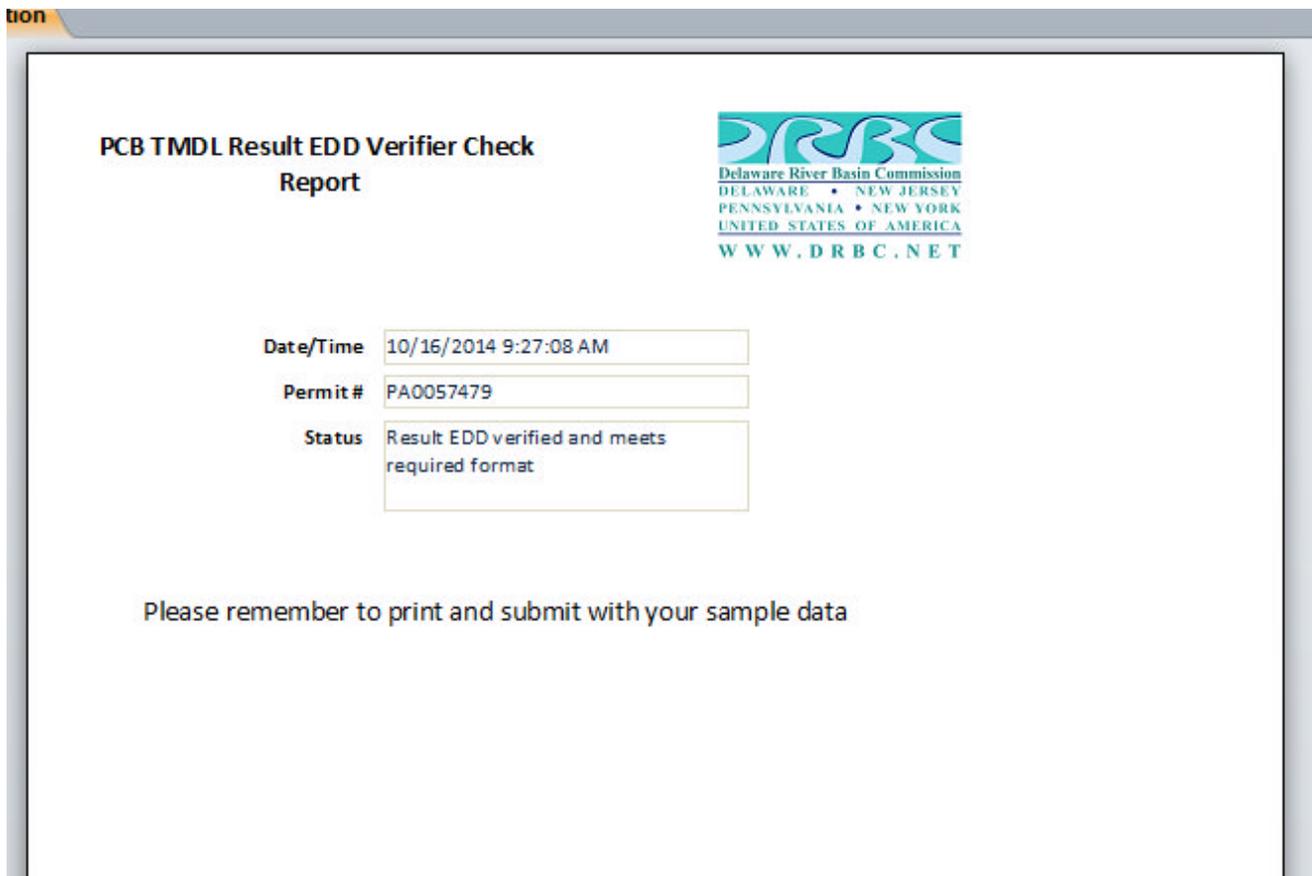
However, if either the method or rinsate blank do not meet the DRBC acceptability criteria i.e., 300 pg/L and 600 pg/L total PCBs, then the following error message will be generated:
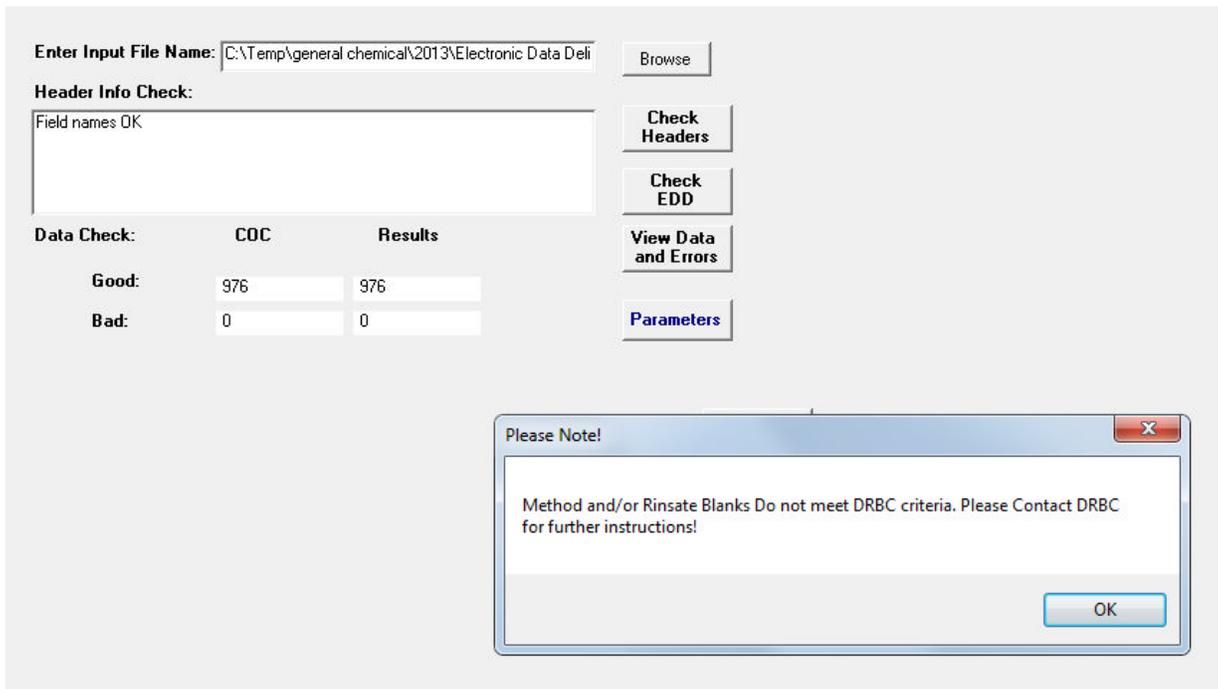
And a total concentration will be provided for either or both of the failed blanks.

Common Data Formatting Errors

A. Typical COC Errors:

Example 1: Header Errors- the formatting/spelling of headers is not consistent with the DRBC requirements.
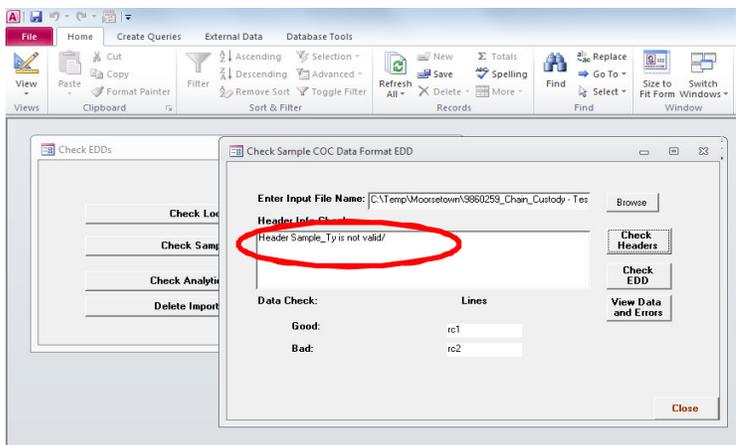
Solution- download the file from the DRBC web page for files which have acceptable header formatting at http://www.state.nj.us/drbc/library/documents/PCB-EDD011309.pdf

Example 2: Missing data, if under the datacheck there is identified a "bad" value click on the "*view data and errors*" tab
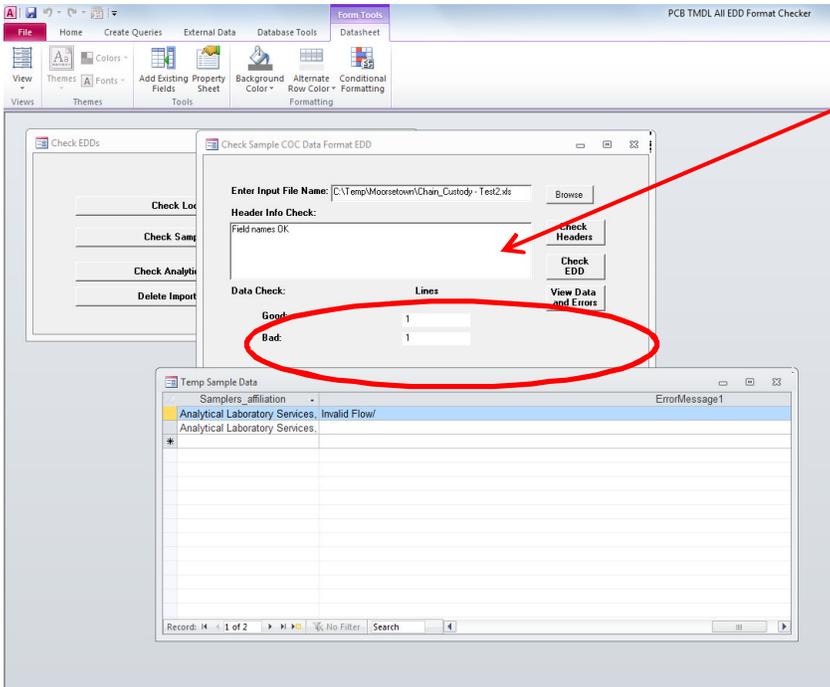
Solution: Add missing data

Example 3: Improperly formatted sample id data
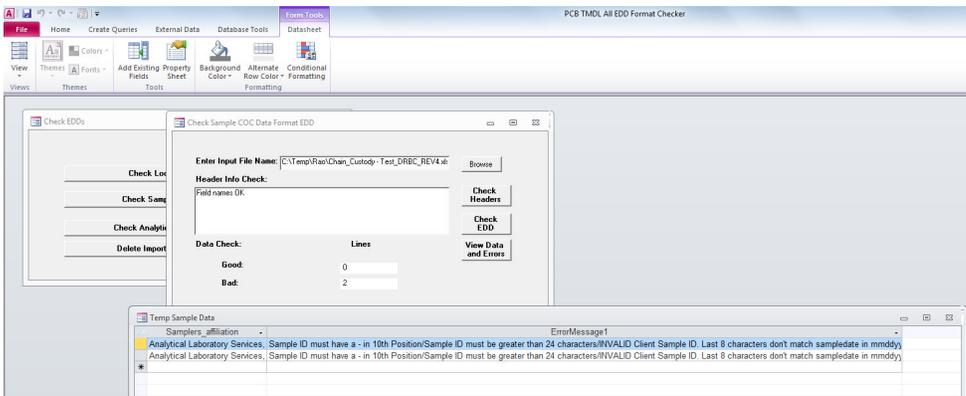
frmFixSampleErrors
Sample_ID
effluent 001
Rinsate Blank 001

Solution: make sure sample id is correctly formatted see formatting protocols at
http://www.state.nj.us/drbc/library/documents/PCB-SampleID.pdf

Example 4: Sample dates in the sample id do not match the sample date in the COC
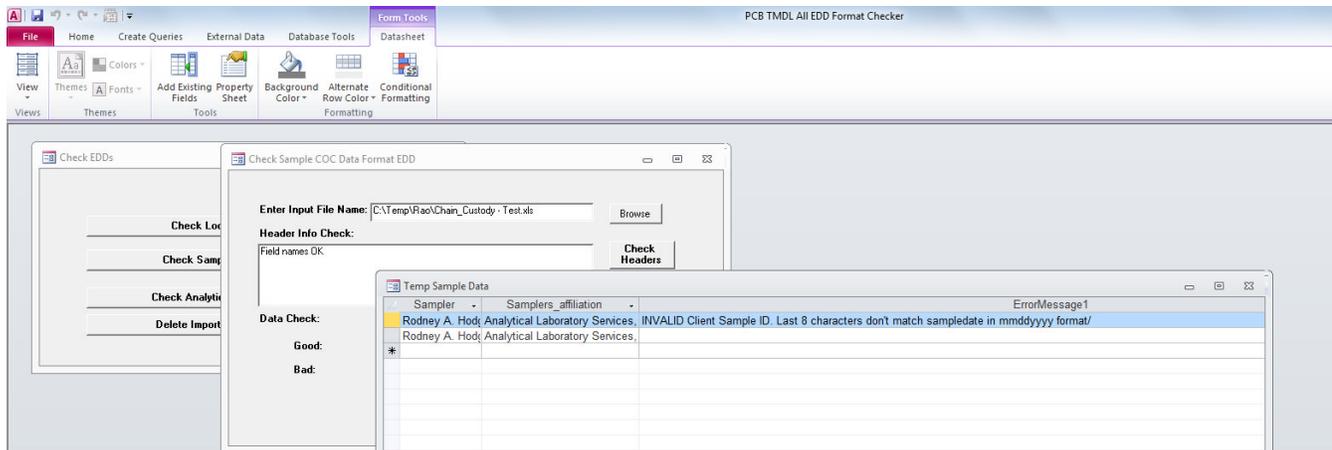

frmFixSampleErrors	
Sample_ID	**Sample_Date**
NJ0024996-DW-001-08112010	8/12/2010
NJ0024996-RB-001-08122010	8/12/2010

Solution: Correct dates so they match and reflect the true sample date, which is the date of sample completion.

Conclusion: Use the COC from the web site as it includes data validation that provides a check as information is being input, do not make your own Excel spreadsheet, as this will increase the potential for errors.

B. Typical Lab EDD Errors:

Example 1: Non-matching data. Sample date in sample id not consistent with sample date in sample date column. Look under data check and there are 239 records identified as bad, and then click on the "*view data and errors*" tab to view type of error


Solution: Confirm sample date and make consistent between the sample date field and the date in the sample id.

A similar issue can occur with the sample time as recorded in the COC and the Lab EDD, confirm and make consistent.

Example 2: Non-matching data. Sample id in the lab EDD does not match the sample id in the COC. Look under data check and there are 478 records identified as bad, and then click on the "*view data and errors*" tab to view type of error
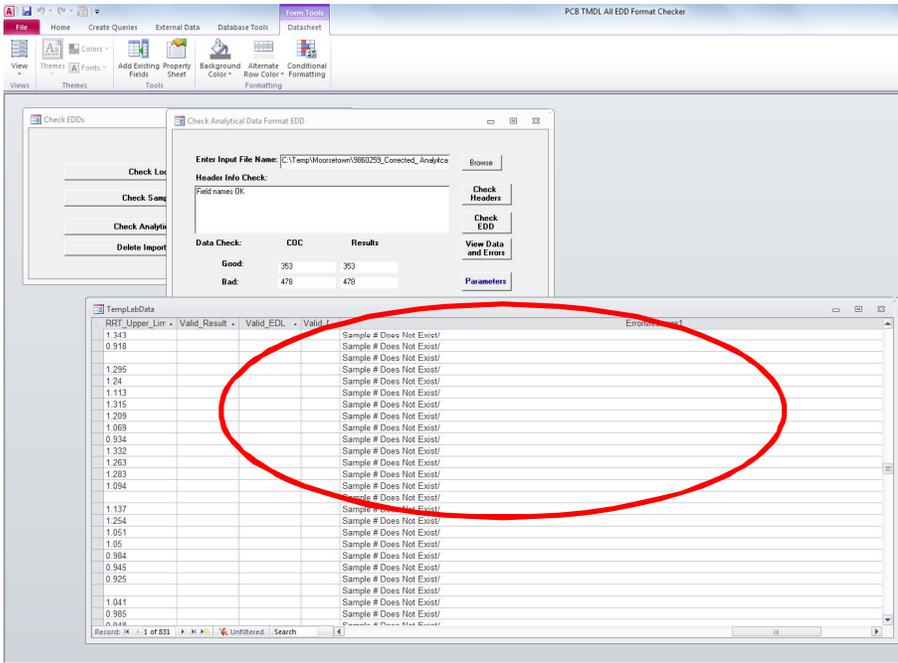
Solution: Confirm sample id and make consistent between COC and Lab EDD

When both the COC and Lab EDD have been reviewed and no errors found then they should meet DRBC reporting requirements and can be submitted in fulfillment of PCB monitoring requirements. Data submitted with two 'Receipts' will be uploaded to the DRBC's database.

If you have any questions or require further assistant or would like me to walk you through the process, please contact me at:

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