What is it?

We’ve begun a pilot project for smarter compliance evaluations using a platform called ARInspect. The platform consists of a Mobile Inspection Application (the App) and an Online Portal (the Portal), which are integrated with DEP systems, but are accessible from anywhere. LTE Tablets and cloud-connectivity mean inspection results are processed and shared rapidly, minimizing the notification time for non-compliant inspections, making results clear and accessible, and improving time-to-compliance following the discovery of a violation.

The platform provides a one-stop compliance hub for inspectors and regulated businesses to communicate and share information. Notifications of non-compliant inspection results and Enforcement Actions can be transmitted immediately to the inspected entity where the Department has an appropriate email address on file. Violations are itemized and easy to track, with supporting information on hand and messaging between DEP Inspectors and Business Reps. only a click away. This approach streamlines management of compliance documents and communication, consolidating a half-dozen channels into one streamlined interface.

For now, the platform will only support a few inspection types. These will grow in number as we continue to enhance the platform with additional features and support.

Who Is Affected?

Current Inspection Types:

- **TOU – SW/HW Vehicles and Container Inspections**
  - Currently, the platform is in use by the Department’s Transportation Oversight Unit, for Solid and Hazardous Waste vehicle and container inspections. In this case, only non-compliant inspections will result in a notification email. As the program expands, we expect to invite NJ County partners to adopt the platform for their SW/HW Transportation inspections.

- **NJPDES – Storm Water General Permit Authorizations**
  - We’ve most recently added support for NJPDES General Permit inspections. These permits apply to specific and common classes of discharge and contain a pre-determined set of permit requirements (as opposed to individual permits). General Permit inspection support is in early stages of field usage, but should be expected to increase significantly after June 2022.

Potential Inspection Types currently being consider for Mobile Inspection App development:
What Should I Expect?

Keep an eye out for Notification emails from NJDEP if you are subject to the listed inspection types. Notification emails are sent from a dep.nj.gov email address, and will link to an online portal where your inspection results can be reviewed, messages can be exchanged, and compliance responses may be submitted. Initial emails are sent following the first inspection to be completed using the platform, to email addresses either already on file or recorded during the interview portion of an inspection. Using the portal, regulated entities or their representatives may confirm registration of their email address as a “compliance contact”. Compliance contacts will then have access to any follow-up tasks resulting from inspections done on the mobile app. Multiple Compliance Contacts can be added for each NJDEP Program Interest, and a single email address can be associated to multiple program interests. This way, you can have backup contacts or track results from multiple NJDEP media programs.

The “Follow-Up” section of the portal provides a response hub where violations and compliance response submittals may be managed. Adding documentation is as simple as dragging and dropping files, replacing the traditional process of submitting certified compliance response on paper. There’s also advantages over email, as the hub will allow alternate DEP enforcement staff to access and respond to your questions and compliance response where the need arises. Submittals made on the portal are automatically saved to DEP’s system, and any violation records are updated accordingly. Inspection reports will also be available (soon to come) and will include any photos or videos that were recorded during the inspection, helping compliance officers identify the specific areas of concern which may need to be addressed.

When is this Happening?

For the Transportation Oversight Unit, over 1000 Inspections have already been conducted in the first few months of release. For this inspection type, only inspections with Follow-Up assignments will result in notification emails, while we work on an “opt-in” feature for those who want to receive notifications for all inspections regardless of their result. At the time of this writing (June 2022), the majority of inspections have been conducted in compliant scenarios, and we’re beginning to open up usage for non-compliant inspections.

As noted above, NJPDES General Permit inspection support is in early stages of field usage but should be expected to increase significantly after June 2022. Additional inspection types will be added as we demonstrate the value of the platform to additional media programs. New inspection types take a few months of development and testing time, and this page will be updated to reflect support for additional inspection types.