MEMORANDUM | 1.15.2015

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| TO | Carl Koch, Terell Lasane, Matt Keene, and Shari Grossarth, EPA  |
| from | Nick Pittman and Neal Etre, IEc |
| subject | Draft Research on Potential Options for ArchEE (Spreadsheet) |
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Introduction

With support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA’s) Office of Policy’s Office of Strategic Environmental Management (OSEM) Evaluation Support Division (ESD), the Environmental Evaluators Network (EEN) is developing an Architecture of Environmental Evaluation (ArchEE) to meet the demand for evidence related to environmental management. ArchEE is intended to provide EPA and the environmental sector with open access to environmental evaluations, evaluators and evaluation-related literature, including formal evaluations and other approaches to systematic improvement, evidence-based management, and policy.

The attached spreadsheet summarizes IEc’s research into various database options to host the ArchEE repository. We investigated four options: the public IssueLab site, a semi-private IssueLab Knowledge Center, Sharepoint, and Alfresco. The spreadsheet provides room for a fifth option, a fully customized database. However, we have waited to research this option, as detailed requirements for the database would need to be developed before we could provide meaningful details.

To gather this information, we conducted interviews with experts with knowledge of each option. In some cases, we also reviewed information available on the internet. Specifically, we conducted following interviews:

* An initial and follow-up discussion with the Foundation Center’s Gabi Fitz and Lisa Brooks on IssueLab;
* An interview with Sirius Computer Solutions, a frequent subcontractor to IEc that provides expert Sharepoint support; and
* An interview with an Alfresco customer service representative.

For each option, we provide details associated with the following criteria: costs, user administration, ease of use, flexibility, setup time, quality control/process, burden to maintain, and infrastructure.

Note that this spreadsheet should be considered a work in progress, as IEc plans to update it as ArchEE requirements evolve. Depending on EPA’s needs, the information collected in this spreadsheet could be used to inform discussions prior to the workshop and/or materials for use during the workshop.