

# Water Quality Data Exchange System

## Phase 1: Data Entry

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WQDE (Page 1 of 2)



### ***What is the Water Quality Data Exchange System?***

The Water Quality Data Exchange (WQDE) system is the first comprehensive system designed to receive, integrate and disseminate New Jersey ambient water quality data generated from multiple sources to water managers, the public, and the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The system was developed by DEP, the New Jersey Water Monitoring Council, and county representatives. This system will enable the efficient integration and use of both internally and externally generated data, providing a more complete picture of New Jersey's water quality.

In addition to new data that is entered into WQDE, this system will provide access to New Jersey data in both USEPA's STORET, as well as USGS' NWIS data systems. NJDEP water quality data has been electronically available since the 1970s—this past information will continue to be available to users as we migrate to use of the WQDE system.

WQDE will be used primarily for the development of NJ's Integrated Water Quality Monitoring & Assessment Report (305(b) & 303(d)) — the federally mandated, biennial assessment of state water quality. This assessment evaluates and establishes the quality of the state's waters and provides information on the effectiveness of activities to manage and restore our waters.

WQDE complements the Volunteer Water Monitoring Data System, which is DEP's data management system for volunteer-collected data.

### ***Who are the anticipated users of this system?***

Users include: New Jersey Water Monitoring Council member organizations, NJDEP ambient water quality monitoring programs, NJDEP Integrated Report data solicitation respondents, NJDEP TMDL study contractors, NJPDES permittees doing ambient water quality monitoring studies, NJDEP 319(h) grantees, Office of Science water research contractors, and NJDEP County Environmental Health Act grantees conducting ambient water quality monitoring.

### ***What part of the system is available for use?***

The data entry portion of the system has been tested and is now available for use. It will accept project descriptions with Quality Assurance Plan attachments, monitoring locations with photos, and results for physical/chemical, biological, habitat and fish tissue data from rivers, lakes, streams, ocean & coastal waters.

### ***How was this project funded?***

Funding for development of this data system came from a USEPA National Environmental Information Exchange Network Grant.

NJDEP Online Web Site address:

<http://www.njdeponline.com>



New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Water Monitoring & Standards  
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New Jersey Water Monitoring Council



## ***How do I get started entering data?***

To access the WQDE system, you first need to obtain a My New Jersey account. Go to NJDEP Online (<http://www.njdeponline.com>) and follow the instructions to register for an account. There is no charge to register.

## ***I am already using the Volunteer Water Monitoring data management system. Do I need to switch over to the WQDE system?***

No, not at this time. We encourage you to continue using the VWM data system. Both systems currently use the same Web site and software for entering data and our goal is to further integrate these systems as one seamless application in the future.

## ***Is training available on how to use this system to enter my data?***

Yes. DEP is sponsoring training on the use of this phase of the system in Trenton in October and November 2009. The dates will be announced shortly. Check the Water Monitoring & Standards Web site ([www.state.nj.us/dep/wms](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/wms)) for training dates and further information.

## ***Who are the program contacts?***

### General Information about WQDE:

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### Division of Watershed Management - TMDL/319(h) studies:

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### Division of Water Quality - for NJPDES permit related studies:

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### County Environmental Health Act - counties submitting ambient water monitoring data:

Deborah Pinto ([Deborah.Pinto@dep.state.nj.us](mailto:Deborah.Pinto@dep.state.nj.us))

### Office of Science - Fish Tissue studies:

Bruce Ruppel ([Bruce.Ruppel@dep.state.nj.us](mailto:Bruce.Ruppel@dep.state.nj.us))

## ***What's next?***

The data retrieval and reporting portion of the system, including real time access to web-based reports, web-based mapping and a searchable Inventory are now being finalized and tested. This portion of the system is currently expected to be available in early 2010.