

Water Quality Data Exchange System

April 2011

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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 NJDEP, the New Jersey Water Monitoring Council, and county representatives and was funded under a USEPA Environmental Information Exchange Grant. 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 historic 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 and Assessment Report and the List of Water Quality Limited Waters - the federally mandated, biennial assessment of statewide water quality ("305(b) Report" and "303(d) List"). 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 Monitoring (VM) Data System, which is NJDEP's data management system for volunteer-collected water quality data.



I am already using the Volunteer Monitoring (VM) 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 VM 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.



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 conducting 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.

**NJDEP Online Web Site
address:**

<http://www.njdeponline.com>



New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Water Monitoring & Standards
www.state.nj.us/dep/wms
(609) 292-1623



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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.

Data Reports and Retrieval

Water quality data submitted to WQDE can be viewed on-screen via NJDEP Data Miner at: http://datamine2.state.nj.us/DEP_OPRA/OpraMain/categories?category=Ambient+Water+Quality. Monitoring locations can be viewed via NJDEP's Web based mapping solution NJGeoWeb at: <http://www.nj.gov/dep/gis/geoweb splash.htm>. Data from WQDE is sent to USEPA's STORET Data Warehouse (<http://www.epa.gov/storet>) which can be used to download data in a text based file format.

Is technical support available for entering my data into the WQDE system?

Yes. If assistance is still needed after a thorough review of the online guide, fact sheet, and FAQs, data submitters may contact Paul Morton (Paul.Morton@dep.state.nj.us) or other Department staff identified below:

Who are the program contacts?

General Information about WQDE:

Paul Morton, Water Monitoring and Standards, (609) 292-1623
(Paul.Morton@dep.state.nj.us)

NJ Water Monitoring Council:

Alena Baldwin-Brown, Water Monitoring and Standards, (609) 292-1623
(Alena.Baldwin-Brown@dep.state.nj.us)

Local/Volunteer Monitoring:

Danielle Donkersloot, WM&S, Bureau of Water Standards and Assessment, (609) 633-9241
(Danielle.Donkersloot@dep.state.nj.us)

NJ Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report/303(d) List Data:

Kevin Berry, WM&S, Bureau of Water Standards and Assessment, (609) 777-1753
(Kevin.Berry@dep.state.nj.us)

TMDL-Related Studies:

Patricia Ingelido, WM&S, Bureau of Environmental Analysis and Restoration, (609) 633-1441
(Patricia.Ingelido@dep.state.nj.us)

NJPDES permit-related studies:

Jason Lonardo, Division of Water Quality Bureau of Source Water Permitting, (609) 292-4860
(Jason.Lonardo@dep.state.nj.us)

Fish Tissue Data:

Terri Tucker, Office of Science, (609) 633-3856
(Terri.Tucker@dep.state.nj.us)