Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Electronic Data Delivery for Toxics Data: Frequently Asked Questions

Water Quality Program

That spreadsheet asks for a lot of information. How am I going to get everything in there?

Please contact your contract lab to obtain the data in the DEQ approved format. DEQ has been working with OELA and numerous labs to streamline the data submission process as much as possible. If your contract lab has questions, please refer them to the contact information at the top of the FAQ sheet. You should be able to copy and paste the information from the Electronic Data Deliverable data provided by the lab into the full submission template. Once data has been copied into the template, please be sure to review the columns and the data to make sure that all analytes have been copied over and that the columns are in the correct order.

My ambient pH values are really high (or low). What is going on?

T While ambient pH values can be variable, they are most likely to be between the range of 6.5 to 8.5 (or 7.0 to 8.5 for the Columbia River and ocean). For each pH measurement taken, run through the following checklist as part of sound sampling practices:

1. Is the value collected what I expected for this location? Is it different from values previously collected at this location?
2. If the value is different, why might that be?
3. Has there been other pH data collected nearby? Is my data similar?
4. What is the conductivity and temperature where the sample is collected? If the conductivity is below 200 uS/cm, refer to the 'low ionic strength' section of the guidance document described below.

Monitoring pH in a river or estuary can be more complicated than it seems. It's your responsibility to understand the equipment and method you use, and if it is appropriate for the location, you are sampling at. To help, DEQ has developed a document called Guidance for NPDES and WPCF Permit Monitoring. This document walks through selecting an appropriate method, developing a Standard Operating Procedure and calibration records, and conducting sound sampling practices for various compounds. Prior to conducting a sample, check your practices against those in the guidance document.

I took some field measurements as part of the Copper BLM sampling, but they aren't included in the formatted data I received from our contract lab. What do I do?

Field measurements must be included as part of the data submission within the Excel template in order to be entered into DEQ's databases. If the lab did not include the field data (e.g. temperature, pH measurements) you must fill in the required information on the Excel template yourself. Please use the conventions outlined in the example below (field measure rows highlighted):

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S
1	Monitoring Location ID	Sample Collection Date	Sample Collection Time	Time Zone	Media Type	Activity Type	Sample Collection Method	Analyte Name	CAS Number	Result Value	Result Unit	Result Measure Qualifier	Detection Limit Value	Detection Limit Unit	Reporting Limit Value	Reporting Limit Unit	Method ID	Laboratory Name	Lab Sample ID
2	ABC_Outfall	2019/05/18	8:00	PDT	Industrial Effluent	Sample	24 Hr Sample	Carbon, Dissolved Organic	7440440	1.72	mg/L		0.2	mg/L	0.5	mg/L	SM 5310 C	Other Lab	OL05182019-001
3	ABC_Outfall	2019/05/18	8:00	PDT	Industrial Effluent	Sample	24 Hr Sample	Chloride	16887006	5.13	mg/L		0.06	mg/L	0.2	mg/L	300	Other Lab	OL05182019-001
4	ABC_Outfall	2019/05/18	8:00	PDT	Industrial Effluent	Sample	24 Hr Sample	Sulfate	14808798	7	mg/L		0.04	mg/L	0.4	mg/L	300	Other Lab	OL05182019-001
5	ABC_Outfall	2019/05/18	8:00	PDT	Industrial Effluent	Sample	24 Hr Sample	Copper, Dissolved	7440508	0.84	UG/L		0.09	UG/L	0.1	UG/L	200.8	Other Lab	OL05182019-001
6	ABC_Outfall	2019/05/18	8:00	PDT	Industrial Effluent	Sample	24 Hr Sample	Aluminum, Total	7429905	315	UG/L		2	UG/L	4	UG/L	200.8	Other Lab	OL05182019-001
7	ABC_Outfall	2019/05/18	8:00	PDT	Industrial Effluent	Sample	24 Hr Sample	Calcium, Total	7440702	12500	UG/L		11	UG/L	21	UG/L	200.7	Other Lab	OL05182019-001
8	ABC_Outfall	2019/05/18	8:00	PDT	Industrial Effluent	Sample	24 Hr Sample	Copper, Total	7440508	1.22	UG/L		0.09	UG/L	0.1	UG/L	200.8	Other Lab	OL05182019-001
9	ABC_Outfall	2019/05/18	8:00	PDT	Industrial Effluent	Sample	24 Hr Sample	Hardness, Total as CaCO3	NA	47.6	mg/L		0.032	mg/L	0.07	mg/L	SM 2340 B	Other Lab	OL05182019-001
10	ABC_Outfall	2019/05/18	8:00	PDT	Industrial Effluent	Sample	24 Hr Sample	Magnesium, Total	7439954	3980	UG/L		1.1	UG/L	5.3	UG/L	200.7	Other Lab	OL05182019-001
11	ABC_Outfall	2019/05/18	8:00	PDT	Industrial Effluent	Sample	24 Hr Sample	Potassium, Total	7440097	1390	UG/L		190	UG/L	210	UG/L	200.7	Other Lab	OL05182019-001
12	ABC_Outfall	2019/05/18	8:00	PDT	Industrial Effluent	Sample	24 Hr Sample	Sodium, Total	7440235	6750	UG/L		110	UG/L	210	UG/L	200.7	Other Lab	OL05182019-001
13	ABC_Outfall	2019/05/18	8:00	PDT	Industrial Effluent	Sample	Grab	Temperature, water	NA	14.5	deg C		NR		NR		SM 2550 B	ABC Inc	OL05182019-001-FM
14	ABC_Outfall	2019/05/18	8:00	PDT	Industrial Effluent	Sample	Grab	pH	NA	7	SU		NR		NR		SM 4500 H+B	ABC Inc	OL05182019-001-FM
15	ABC_Ambient	2019/05/18	9:00	PDT	Surface Water	Sample	Grab	Carbon, Dissolved Organic	7440440	1.41	mg/L		0.2	mg/L	0.5	mg/L	SM 5310 C	Other Lab	OL05182019-002
16	ABC_Ambient	2019/05/18	9:00	PDT	Surface Water	Sample	Grab	Chloride	16887006	3.91	mg/L		0.06	mg/L	0.2	mg/L	300	Other Lab	OL05182019-002
17	ABC_Ambient	2019/05/18	9:00	PDT	Surface Water	Sample	Grab	Sulfate	14808798	6.21	mg/L		0.04	mg/L	0.4	mg/L	300	Other Lab	OL05182019-002
18	ABC_Ambient	2019/05/18	9:00	PDT	Surface Water	Sample	Grab	Copper, Dissolved	7440508	0.71	UG/L		0.09	UG/L	0.1	UG/L	200.8	Other Lab	OL05182019-002
19	ABC_Ambient	2019/05/18	9:00	PDT	Surface Water	Sample	Grab	Aluminum, Total	7429905	1140	UG/L		2	UG/L	4	UG/L	200.8	Other Lab	OL05182019-002
20	ABC_Ambient	2019/05/18	9:00	PDT	Surface Water	Sample	Grab	Calcium, Total	7440702	12400	UG/L		11	UG/L	21	UG/L	200.7	Other Lab	OL05182019-002
21	ABC_Ambient	2019/05/18	9:00	PDT	Surface Water	Sample	Grab	Copper, Total	7440508	2.19	UG/L		0.09	UG/L	0.1	UG/L	200.8	Other Lab	OL05182019-002
22	ABC_Ambient	2019/05/18	9:00	PDT	Surface Water	Sample	Grab	Hardness, Total as CaCO3	NA	47.6	mg/L		0.032	mg/L	0.07	mg/L	SM 2340 B	Other Lab	OL05182019-002
23	ABC_Ambient	2019/05/18	9:00	PDT	Surface Water	Sample	Grab	Magnesium, Total	7439954	4040	UG/L		1.1	UG/L	5.3	UG/L	200.7	Other Lab	OL05182019-002
24	ABC_Ambient	2019/05/18	9:00	PDT	Surface Water	Sample	Grab	Potassium, Total	7440097	1390	UG/L		190	UG/L	210	UG/L	200.7	Other Lab	OL05182019-002
25	ABC_Ambient	2019/05/18	9:00	PDT	Surface Water	Sample	Grab	Sodium, Total	7440235	6160	UG/L		110	UG/L	210	UG/L	200.7	Other Lab	OL05182019-002
26	ABC_Ambient	2019/05/18	9:00	PDT	Surface Water	Sample	Grab	Temperature, water	NA	12.5	deg C		NR		NR		SM 2550 B	ABC Inc	OL05182019-002-FM
27	ABC_Ambient	2019/05/18	9:00	PDT	Surface Water	Sample	Grab	pH	NA	7.9	SU		NR		NR		SM 4500 H+B	ABC Inc	OL05182019-002-FM

Figure 1. Copper BLM submission example

Some things to keep in mind:

- Because there are no detection limits or reporting limits for temperature or pH, simply put “NR” in those columns. You can leave the detection limit unit and reporting limit unit columns blank.
- The CAS # column for temperature and pH can be left blank or filled with “NA”
- Use your facility name in the Laboratory Name column for all field measures
- Please report temperature in degrees Celsius
- For lab sample ID, please use the same ID provided by your contract lab and add “-FM” to the end.

Why can’t I put “Field” as the method for pH and temperature?

The Clean Water Act requires that NPDES data is measured using methods approved in 40 CFR 136. To ensure that submitted data is meeting this requirement, DEQ cannot accept “Field” as a method. Please review 40 CFR 136 and ensure that your QA/QC manual and SOPs align with a CFR approved method. Once the appropriate method has been determined, please report the method in your EDD submittal (see Figure 1 above for an example). For help in determining a method, refer to Guidance for NPDES and WPCF Permit Monitoring.

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