

EIM Help – Temporary Environmental Investigation Wells (Direct Push/Geoprobe®)

Version 2.5
May 2025

This document supersedes the November 2009 interim guidance for entering Environmental Investigation Wells (EIWs) into EIM. Prior to February 2015, we entered EIWs into EIM as regular Locations instead of Wells. Regular Locations have fewer required fields than Wells, so we were not capturing some of the pertinent information about EIWs. **As of February 27, 2015, enter your EIWs into EIM as Wells.** This document explains how to do that. The good news is that *EIWs have fewer required fields than permanent wells.*

What are Environmental Investigation Wells?

Environmental Investigation Wells are **temporary wells**. They are decommissioned immediately after samples are collected. EIWs are commonly used for rapid reconnaissance or site screening prior to the installation of permanent monitoring wells. EIWs are often installed using direct push methods such as Geoprobe®. EIWs do not result in the installation of permanent casings.

[WAC 173-160-410\(2\)](#): "Environmental investigation well" means a cased hole intended or used to extract a sample or samples of groundwater, vapor, or soil from an underground formation and which is decommissioned immediately after the sample or samples are obtained. An environmental investigation well is typically installed using direct push technology or auger boring and uses the probe, stem, auger, or rod as casing. An environmental investigation well is not a geotechnical soil boring.

Note: Direct push technologies are also used to install permanent monitoring wells. In these cases, enter them into EIM as a permanent well.

EIW Q&A

What if my EIW isn't legally considered a well because it's too shallow?

Even if you did not submit a start card and well construction information for your EIW to Ecology per the ten-foot exemption (below), you must still submit it as a well/EIW to EIM.

[RCW18.104.202\(23\)\(b\)](#): Well does not mean an excavation made for the purpose of:

(iii) Inserting any device or instrument less than ten feet in depth into the soil for the sole purpose of performing soil or water testing or analysis or establishing soil moisture content as long as there is no withdrawal of water in any quantity other than as necessary to perform the intended testing or analysis.

If I collected groundwater *and* soil samples from my EIW, should I submit all the data under the same EIM Well?

Yes. Submit all groundwater **and soil data** from your EIW under the same EIM Well.

What if I didn't collect groundwater samples from my EIW?

If you did not collect at least one groundwater sample or water level measurement from your EIW, enter the location as a regular EIM Location and not as a Well.

What if I collected groundwater samples from a boring?

If you collected groundwater samples from a boring, enter this location into EIM as an EIW. Submit all groundwater **and soil data** from this location under the EIW. If you did not collect any groundwater samples, enter it as a regular EIM Location.

What if I measured water levels in my EIW?

Water levels are not commonly measured in EIWs, but they can be. EIWs with water level measurements require more information than EIWs where just groundwater and soil samples are collected. EIM uses this additional information to normalize the water levels as both elevations and depths below land surface. See the section below on "How to Enter Your Temporary EIW and Data into EIM" for guidance.

How to Enter Your Temporary EIW and Data into EIM

Location Template

In addition to the fields required for all Locations in [Location Help](#), the following well-related fields are Required (R), Conditionally Required (CR), or Optional (O) for EIWs.

Column	Well-Related EIM Location Template Fields	Permanent Resource Protection Well (for comparison)	Temporary EIW with Water Levels	Temporary EIW with NO Water Levels	Typical Valid Value(s) for EIWs
F	Is Location A Well	R	R	R	Y
AH	Elevation of	R	R	n/a	
AI	Elevation	R	R	n/a	
AJ	Elevation Units	R	R	n/a	FT
AK	Elevation Datum	R	R	n/a	NAVD88
AL	Elevation Accuracy	R	R	n/a	
AM	Elevation Collection Method	R	R	n/a	
AO	Well Water Level Measuring Point or TOC ID	R	R	n/a	TOC 1 or MP1
AP	Well Water Level Measuring Point or TOC Description	R	R	n/a	
AQ	Well Water Level Measuring Point or TOC Height	CR	CR	n/a	
AR	Well Water Level Measuring Point or TOC Height Units	CR	CR	n/a	
AS	Well Water Level Measuring Point or TOC Start Date	O	O	n/a	
AT	Well Tag ID	CR	CR	n/a	
AU	Well Owner Organization Name	CR	O	n/a	
AV	Well Owner Last Name	CR	O	n/a	
AW	Well Owner First Name	CR	O	n/a	
AX	Groundwater Location Type	R	R	R	Temporary Well - EIW
AY	Well Completion Depth	R	CR	n/a	
AZ	Well Completion Depth Units	R	CR	n/a	
BA	Well Completion Type	R	CR	n/a	
BB	Well Open Interval Upper Depth	R	R*	n/a	
BC	Well Open Interval Lower Depth	R	R*	n/a	
BD	Well Open Interval Units	R	R	n/a	
BE	Well Maximum Casing Diameter	O	O	n/a	
BF	Well Maximum Casing Diameter Units	O	O	n/a	
BG	Well Casing Material	O	O	O	
BH	Well Construction End Date	CR	O	n/a	
BI	Well Construction Method**	CR	CR	CR	BA – bored/augered DR – driven/direct push
BJ	Well Construction Comment	O	O	O	
BM	Naturally Flowing Well	CR	CR	CR	

R = Required, CR = Conditionally Required, O = Optional

* Upper and Lower Depth can be the same if you used a port or very short opening (<= 6 inches) in the drive casing

** See [Location Help](#) for additional Well Construction Methods

Results Template

In addition to the required fields for all Results in [Results Help](#), the following fields are Required (R) or Conditionally Required (CR) for soil and groundwater data from EIWs.

Column	Key EIW-Related EIM Result Template Fields	Groundwater and Soil Samples	Water Level Measurements	Typical Valid Values for EIWs	Comments
M	Field Collection Reference Point	R	n/a	Land Surface	
N	Field Collection Upper Depth	R	n/a		Upper and Lower Depth can be the same if you used a port or very short opening in the drive casing
O	Field Collection Lower Depth	R	n/a		
P	Field Collection Depth Units	R	n/a		
Q	Well Water Level Measuring Point or TOC ID	n/a	R	MP1 or TOC1	Must be the same as the value you entered in the Location Template, Well Water Level Measuring Point or TOC ID field (AO)
AA	Sample Collection Method	R	n/a	DIRECTPUSH: Direct Push (like Geoprobe) DirectPushSplitSpoon: Direct Push (like Geoprobe) with Split Spoon AUGER-SPLITSPOON: Auger, hollow stem with split spoon	Use this field for your primary Sample Collection Method See Method valid values for additional valid values
AC	Sample Method Other	CR	n/a	PUMP-GW-LOW-FLOW: Low-flow (low stress, minimal drawdown) groundwater sampling by pump (0.1 - 0.5 L/min, up to 1 L/min in coarse material)	Use this field only if you have more than one Sample Collection Method See Method valid values for additional valid values
AH	Result Parameter Name	R	R	Diesel Range Organics Water level in well (depth below measuring point)	See Parameter valid values for additional valid values
AY	Result Method	R	R	NWTPH-DX - Semivolatile Petroleum Products Method for Soil and Water GWLMT - Groundwater level by electric tape measurement	See Method valid values for additional valid values

R = Required, CR = Conditionally Required

Revision History

Revision Date	Revision No.	Summary of Changes	Reviser(s)
11/09	1.0	Interim Guidance	KC
2/27/15	2.0	EIWs now entered into EIM as wells.	CN, KC
1/20/16	2.1	Fixed broken links	CN
09/08/17	2.2	Updated links	KC
12/12/18	2.3	Updated GWLMT description	KC
11/10/20	2.4	Updated “Is Location a Well” to “Is Location A Well” to match template	KC
05/21/25	2.5	Removed “Is Well Upgradient of a Facility/Site” from table because we decommissioned that field	KC