

EIM Help – Data Types We Don’t Put Into EIM

Version 3.1
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Data That Don’t Reflect Environmental Conditions

EIM data reflect current and historical conditions of the land, water, and air. The data types listed below are related to environmental monitoring, but don’t represent the condition of the actual environment.

We make exceptions, noted below, when we need these data to help analyze environmental conditions. An example is landfill leachate. We use the chemical profile to determine if leachate is escaping into the groundwater.

Field and Lab Blank Samples

- Most lab method blanks
- Trip blanks
- Equipment blanks
- Field/transfer blanks
- **Exception:** You CAN submit lab method blank samples for low-level PCB congeners by EPA1668C. See help for [Low-Level PCB Congener Data](#).

Other Lab QA/QC Samples

- Matrix spikes
- Lab control samples
- Surrogates
- Most lab replicates and duplicates

Some Lab Measurements

- Sample temperature at receipt
- Sample pH at receipt or before analysis (unless within 15 minutes of collection)

Disposal or Short-Term Storage Characterization

- Stockpile soil on cleanup sites
- Investigation-derived wastes (IDW) such as drilling muds, cuttings and purge water.
- Baker tank contents
- Drum contents
- Underground storage tank contents

Pumping RATE Data

Pumping rate data from wells or treatment systems.

Pure Product

- Examples: Pure gas, oil, or solvent
- You CAN submit data from environmental matrices (like water) intended to characterize pure product chemicals

In-Line Sewer Data

- Anything collected within a sewer line.
- **Exception:** You CAN submit in-line sewer data that's part of an environmental source-tracking study

Solid Waste Stream

- Garbage
- Recyclables

Standard Reference Material

- Control samples for fish tissue data
- **Exception:** You CAN submit bioassay reference samples

Treatment or Collection System Emissions or Effluent

- Oil water separator
- Soil vapor extraction (SVE)
- Air stripping
- Air sparging
- Helium from soil gas vapor shroud testing
- **Exceptions** - you CAN submit:
 - Landfill leachate data
 - Environmental samples collected during construction of treatment and collection systems

Wastewater Treatment Plant Data

- Permit-related Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) data
- Influent or effluent
- **Exception:** You CAN submit influent or effluent data that supports an environmental study, such as a receiving water study.

Certain Well-Related Data

Water Level Elevations

For both discrete and time-series measurements, **EIM only takes depth-to-water measurements** that are relative to a defined measuring point like top of well casing. EIM calculates water level elevations and depth below land surface based on depth to water and wellhead elevation data. These are available in EIM Search.

Aquifer Test Data

Don't submit aquifer or pumping test data to EIM. Instead, **send your aquifer test report (in PDF) to your EIM data coordinator**. They will upload it to EIM.

Data Collected or Analyzed by Certain Methods

PID Field Meter

Photoionization detectors (PIDs) determine if volatile organic compounds (VOCs) or other gases are present. These are screening methods and not put into EIM.

Most Microbial Source Tracking (MST)

MST includes polymerase chain reaction (PCR) other molecular methods for tracking fecal contaminant sources.

Exception: We will consider quantitative data by published methods like EPA 1696.1 and 1697.2.

Echo Sounder

We can't currently accommodate the spatial nature of echo sounder data in EIM.

Some Passive Sampling Devices

- Semi-permeable membrane device (SPMD)
- Polar organic chemical integrative sampler (POCIS)
- **Exception:** We consider data from passive sampling devices on a case-by-case basis.
- **Note:** Ecology's Environmental Assessment Program (EAP) stores SPMD and POCIS data on their passive sampler SharePoint site

Loss on Ignition

Loss on ignition (LOI) is an interim step in the calculation of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) and does not go into EIM. Submit the final dry weight TOC result the lab provides.

Summarized Time-Series and Vertical Profile Data

Summarized Time-Series Data

Submit only your complete set of time-series data - not daily summaries or other types of summaries. **EIM auto-calculates summaries for time-series data.** Examples of summaries are daily mean/max/min for temperature, DO, pH, and water levels. Summaries are available to download in EIM Search, along with the complete time-series datasets.

If you have time-series data to submit to EIM, view help for [How to Submit Time-Series Data to EIM](#).

Continuous Vertical Profile Data

EIM is currently only set up to take continuous vertical profile data generated by Ecology. EIM auto-calculates summaries for that profile data.

Exception: EIM can take smaller vertical profile datasets via the Discrete Results template. Check with your EIM data coordinator. EIM does not auto-calculate summaries for this data.

Data That Go in Other Ecology Systems

Habitat Measures/Metrics

- Habitat data goes in Ecology's [Watershed Health Monitoring \(WHM\) database](#). WHM only houses data collected by specific protocols from Ecology and certain partners
- Examples: Total radiation load, large woody debris, and effective shade
- **Exception:** If your habitat data can't go in WHM because it has different protocols or if you have a small amount of habitat data related to your study, talk to your EIM data coordinator. We might be able to put it in EIM.

DMR Data

Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) data from NPDES or State Waste Discharge permits goes to the PARIS database at Ecology's [Water Quality Web Portal](#).

Product Testing

[Children's Safe Product Act](#) and [Safer Products for Washington](#) testing data go to the High Priority Chemical Data System database at the Interstate Chemical Clearinghouse (IC2).

Data From Other Publicly Available Systems

EIM doesn’t take data readily available in other systems, like the USGS National Water Information System (NWIS).

Exception: Data your organization also submitted to EPA WQX/WQP (formerly STORET). We prefer using EIM data for the 303(d) Assessment. We can also send certain National Estuary Program (NEP) to WQX on behalf of your organization.

Other Exceptions

If you need an exception that’s not listed above, contact us on our [EIM Help Center form](#).

Document Revision History

| Revision Date | Revision No. | Summary of Changes | Reviser(s) |
|---------------|--------------|--|------------|
| 8/07 | 1.0 | Original Document | CN |
| 2/25/09 | 1.1 | Added landfill leachate and SVE | CN, KC |
| 4/16/10 | 1.2 | Added Microbial Source Tracking | CN, BC |
| 6/17/10 | 1.3 | Changed “Trip and transfer blanks” to “Trip, equipment, and field/transfer blanks” | CN, BC |
| 5/25/12 | 1.4 | Added SPMD, update on continuous GW data, pumping rate | CN, KC |
| 6/13/12 | 1.5 | Added pure product and POCIS data | CN, KC |
| 12/26/12 | 1.6 | Added radiation load, canopy cover, and effective shade | CN, KC |
| 8/1/13 | 1.7 | Added daily summary data and deleted continuous data since EIM now accepts continuous data and calculate the daily summaries. | CN, KC |
| 10/16/13 | 1.8 | Added WWTP influent, children’s product testing and CLAM | KC |
| 5/5/16 | 1.9 | Removed landfill leachate since EIM now takes that data. | CN |
| 11/30/16 | 2.0 | Added data from other publicly available systems and DMR data. Divided into sections and added more explanation. | CN |
| 12/5/16 | 2.1 | Formatting updates and added Echo-sounder data. | CN |
| 11/03/17 | 2.2 | Updated links, added “water level elevations” and “underground storage tank contents.” Added clarification to pure product. | KC |
| 06/06/18 | 2.3 | Add PID meter data to # 3 and aquifer test data to #4. Updated links to WQ WebPortal and CSPA. | KC |
| 06/27/18 | 2.4 | Added air stripping and air sparging | KC |
| 01/24/19 | 2.5 | Under the heading Treatment/collection system emissions/effluent, revised sentence “Exception: Landfill leachate and gas” to “Exception: Landfill leachate.” | KC |

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|---------------|--------------|--|------------|
| 02/07/19 | 2.6 | Removed C.L.A.M. from Section 3. | KC |
| 05/18/20 | 2.7 | Renamed from "Data not entered into EIM." Revised information about habitat data. Reformatted for accessibility. Updated links. CSPA is now IC2. | CN |
| 07/19/21 | 2.8 | Added section on Loss on Ignition | KC |
| 06/22/22 | 2.9 | Added exception for environmental samples collected during construction of treatment and collection systems. | KC |
| 01/09/23 | 2.10 | Added "Helium from soil gas vapor shroud testing" to the heading "Treatment or collection system emissions or effluent." | KC |
| 03/02/23 | 2.11 | Added Investigation Derived Waste (IDW) | KC |
| 03/08/24 | 3.0 | Update to new format. Added Method Blank Data exception for EPA1668C Congener Data; exceptions to MST data. | CN |
| 01/21/25 | 3.1 | Added info about not submitting sample temperature and pH taken at the lab. Added link for Safer Products for Washington testing data. Switched back to single column. | MP, KC, CN |