

EIM News – New Data Loader (Public Users)

August 3, 2026

We launched a new EIM Data Loader.

This is an overview of key changes for the new Loader. See [How to Submit Data to EIM](#) for more details, including an **overview of the new Loader**. We also refreshed the help for the templates and updated the valid values lookup tabs in the templates. Download them from the [EIM Help Center](#).

Access the new Loader from the link you normally use or from the [EIM Submit Data page](#).

If you come across any issues, contact your data coordinator or [Contact EIM](#).

Key Changes

Naming conventions

- “Holding area” (where your uploaded files go) is now called “the Queue” or “Coordinator’s Queue”
- “Batches” are now called “Data Files”
- “Data Type” is now “Submitting To/Submittal Groups”

When you make your User Profile, “Data Type” (e.g., “Water Quality – Grant Recipient”) is now “Submitting To.” We call these categories “Submittal Groups.” Your Submittal Group directs your submittal to the correct data coordinator for review. If you need to submit data for more than one Submittal Group, you can select and toggle among them. The default is under your Account settings. You can also See “Manage Your Loader Account” and “Submit Data for More Than One Organization” in [How to Submit Data to EIM](#).

We tweaked the names of these groups—see the table below.

***Note:** For PLIA data, check with your PLIA site manager about the need to submit this data to EIM.

****Note:** “EPA NEP Grant Data” is now “Water Quality – Federal Grant Recipient.” It covers all Federal grants, including National Estuary Program (NEP), Clean Water Act Section 319 (319), and others. Contact your data coordinator about having Ecology pass this data through to EPA WQX.

Submitting To/Submittal Group (new)	Data Type (former)
Cleanup - PLIA Petroleum *	Petroleum cleanup under PLIA
Cleanup - RCRA Corrective Action	RCRA Corrective Action cleanup
Cleanup - Sediment and Bioassay	Sediment data
Cleanup - VCP or Formal Agreement	Cleanup site or VCP
Industrial Facility Assessment - Industrial Program	Industrial section data. Includes cleanups
Landfill Groundwater Monitoring	Landfill groundwater monitoring
Water Quality - 303(d) Assessment	Water Quality 303(d) Assessment
Water Quality - Grant Recipient	Water Quality Grant recipient data
Water Quality - Federal Grant Recipient **	EPA NEP grant data
Water Quality - NPDES Receiving Water Study	NPDES receiving water studies
Water Quality - Stormwater Action Monitoring (SAM)	Stormwater Action Monitoring (SAM)
Water Quality - Stormwater Municipal Permit	Municipal stormwater permit data
Water Resources/OCR - Grant Recipient	Water Resources/Office of the Columbia River data

Where to find your data files

- Your data files, both locations and results (discrete results, time-series results, well water levels, and bioassay), are under the study they belong to.

Data file naming

- Data filenames must now be unique within EIM.
- The exception to data file names being unique is when you resubmit a data file from within the Loader—**use the same filename that you previously submitted**. Loader deletes the previous file and keeps a record of it in History and Notes.

File checks

- We added a lot of new checks that our data coordinators used to do, like logic checks for reporting and detection limits. (Note that we didn't add EVERY single check that your data coordinators do—they will still review your submittal.)
- We used to just cross-check against data that's already in EIM, but now we also cross-check against data in the queue. Examples of what we check for include duplicate data and missing locations.

- **We ran the new checks on most existing data files** (except locations). You can tell by going to the Data File Page for a data file and looking at the History and Notes section at the bottom. You will also most likely see errors you haven't seen before. **Please fix these errors and resubmit your data file(s).** You won't lose your place in the queue, and it will shorten the data coordinator processing time.
- **For locations**, choose **Re-check data** to apply the new checks. This will also geoprocess them so you can see them on a map.

Transfer files to yourself

- Transfer data files to yourself from another person within your organization ("Take ownership").

No need to delete submitted files

- You don't need to delete data files you submitted anymore. Once your data coordinator loads your data file into EIM, Loader auto-archives it.

Business rule changes

Unknown valid values

We got rid of any instances of "Unknown" as a valid value.

Field replicates

We now flag the primary sample in a series of replicates with a P (Sample Replicate Flag, column T). We used to have an N flag for the primary sample. The rest of the replicates still get flagged with Y for Yes. See more help in [Field Replicates](#).

Parameters that require Field Collection Start Date and Time

We now **require Field Collection Start Date (F) and Time (G)** for certain parameters (table below). These parameters commonly exhibit diel (daily) fluctuations.

Parameter Name
Conductivity
Dissolved Oxygen
pH
Specific Conductivity
Temperature, air

Parameter Name
Temperature, hyporheic
Temperature, water
Turbidity
Water level in well (depth below top of well casing)
Water level in well (depth below measuring point)
Water level in well (depth below land surface)
Depth to product (LNAPL) in well (depth below top of well casing)
Depth to product (LNAPL) in well (depth below measuring point)
Depth to product (LNAPL) in well (depth below land surface)

Parameters that require Field Collection Start Time AND Lab Analysis Time

We now **require Field Collection Start Date (F) and Time (G) and Lab Analysis Date (AK) and Time (AL)** for certain parameters with short holding times (48 hours or fewer per the analytical method) (table below). We calculate holding time exceedances for these parameters. Calculated exceedances will give you a warning. Note that calculated exceedances don't account for preservation or preparation, so not all calculated exceedances are correct. **For true holding time exceedances, enter a Result Data Qualifier (AS)** like "J." We also encourage submitters to enter a comment if they qualified a sample due to a holding time exceedance.

Note: We are working on a set of data qualifiers specifically for holding time exceedances. We will roll them out in the coming months.

Parameter Name	CAS Number
Apparent color	
Chromium, Hexavalent	18540-29-9
E. coli	68583-22-2
Enterococci	
Fecal Coliform	
Fecal Streptococci	
Klebsiella	
Nitrate as N	
Nitrate as NO3	
Nitrite as N	
Nitrite as NO2	

Parameter Name	CAS Number
Orthophosphate as P	
Orthophosphate as PO4	
pH	
Settleable Solids	
Sulfite	14265-45-3
Surfactants	
Total coliform	
Total Residual Chlorine	
True Color	
Turbidity	