



United States Department of the Interior

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
Office of the Chief Scientist for Water
436 National Center
Reston, Virginia 20192

In Reply Refer To:
Mail Stops 411, 412, 415

July 7, 2016

Office of Groundwater Technical Memorandum No. 2016.01
Office of Surface Water Technical Memorandum No. 2016.04
Office of Water Quality Technical Memorandum No. 2016.08

Subject: Water Mission Area Policy on Accepting Furnished Records

Water Resources Discipline Policy Memo 2008.01 documents the policy of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) regarding acceptance of hydrologic data collected by other agencies into the USGS National Water Information System (NWIS). This memorandum supersedes WRD Policy Memo 2008.01 and provides additional guidance for Water Science Centers (WSCs) contemplating accepting furnished data.

The USGS NWIS data base is primarily intended to provide a processing, storage, and data delivery system for hydrologic data collected by the USGS. It is a long-standing policy and practice that the USGS will accept data into NWIS that are collected (in all or in part) by other organizations, provided that the USGS quality assures the data; can attest that the data are collected using methods that result in data that have an accuracy comparable to the data collected by the USGS; and the data contribute useful information about the water resources of the Nation. We refer to these non-USGS data in NWIS as “furnished records.”

The final authority and responsibility for ensuring compliance of furnished records with USGS standards rests with the Water Science Center Director. Several factors should inform the decision on acceptance of furnished records. Because of differences in the essential character of the various types of data and the process applicable to each, these factors should be considered on a discipline-specific basis. The three Technical Offices have created web sites which document requirements for accepting furnished records, and offer tools that can be used to expedite review of those records. The web pages are as follows:

- Office of Groundwater: <http://water.usgs.gov/usgs/ogw/policy/furnished-records/>
- Office of Surface Water: http://water.usgs.gov/osw/furnished_records/
- Office of Water Quality: <http://water.usgs.gov/usgs/owq/software.html>

These web sites and tools will be updated as the needs arise, and updates will be announced by the individual Offices. We look forward to your feedback on the guidance and tools.

William C. Cunningham
Chief, Office of Groundwater

Robert R. Mason
Chief, Office of Surface Water

Donna N. Myers
Chief, Office of Water Quality

This memorandum supersedes the following Water Mission Area Technical Memoranda 2008.01

Distribution: All WMA Employees

REFERENCES

Water Resources Discipline Policy Memorandum, 2008.01, Water Resources Discipline Policy on Accepting Furnished Records, July 1, 2008.