

Using the Assessment Template

The Water Quality Control Division uses an assessment template to assess all water quality data. This systematic approach allows all data to be considered in a consistent manner for standards rulemaking hearings and the 303(d) List rulemaking hearing.

Features of this template include:

- Calculations of Table Value Standards as defined in Regulation Nos. 31-38
- Calculations of Ambient Water Quality as defined in regulations and in the 303(d) Listing Methodology
- Attainment summaries of data versus standards.
- Graphical representation of various parameters.

This template enables the user to enter in the segment specific classified uses and standards. The user is then able to enter in the raw data that will then be assessed using a variety of statistical methods and then compared to the applicable standards as calculated.

To assess a dataset as done by the Environmental Data Unit, follow these steps:

1. Enter all data into the “datastore” worksheet.

- The “datastore” worksheet was created to store all of the data from a site over an extended period of record. This sheet can be manipulated to some degree (sorted and insert data) but the format (columns) must stay the same to be copied to the “data” sheet.

2. Choose the applicable period of record that you would like to assess and cut and paste those rows from the “datastor” tab into the “data” worksheet. (Note: it is very important that the columns contain the information that is indicated in the column headers.)

- The “data” worksheet stores the data that you want assessed on the summary sheet, such as data from a specific period of record. Data can’t be “cut” from this sheet. Data must be only **deleted** from this worksheet to maintain the links between the “calc” and “data” worksheets.

Once information is pasted to the “data” worksheet, the template will copy data to the “calc” worksheet, to the “summary” worksheet, and to other pages.

3. Check the data summarized in the “std” worksheet.

- Check to see that water quality data summary information is reasonable and correct for the period of record. This is summarized in row 21 for the chronic or

existing water quality for the given parameter in the data set. The maximum data point for the given parameter in the data set is displayed in row 29.

- Check to see that the sampling site name, site number, agency, latitude, longitude and datum were automatically populated in rows 2-7.

4. Populate the segment specific information in the “std” worksheet.

- Add the segment/WBID in all CAPS in row 1.
- Populate the information in rows 8-12 with segment specific classified use information from the applicable regulation. Referring to the regulation and the segment enter the correct aquatic life use temperature, recreation use, if the segment has a water supply use, temperature tier (if available), if zinc sculpin standard is applicable, the date of the assessment and the assessor initials or name.
- Include date assessed and your name in rows 13 and 14. You can add any assessor notes in this segment as well.
- Ambient-based or site-specific standards can be substituted into rows 18 and 27 where applicable.

The Environmental Data Unit names the assessment files using the sampling agency, sample number, and the sample site name.

Note:

Hardness dependant Table Value Standard (TVS) calculation is capped at 400 mg/L hardness. In cases where the average hardness is greater than 400 mg/L, the spreadsheet will calculate the hardness based TVS using 400 mg/L.