



Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Oregon's 2026 Integrated Report Call for Data Submission Guidelines

Purpose of this document

This document describes the elements required to ensure the use of high-quality data for the water quality assessment, which results in the Integrated Report and updates to the 303(d) list of impaired waterbodies. For this assessment, surface water quality will be assessed by comparing measured chemical, physical, and biological parameters to water quality criteria and standards. The methods used to make these comparisons and determine a final assessment conclusion are covered in the DEQ assessment methodology document that will be released in draft form in March 2025.

Below is a data submission guide for those organizations interested in submitting data for inclusion in the assessment process. The information is also summarized in a checklist at the end of the document.

Note: Organizations that are ongoing participants in DEQ's Volunteer Monitoring Program can continue to use the data reporting procedures established for that program. Data submitted under that program do not need to be resubmitted under this call for data.

Data quality requirements

Organizations submitting data to DEQ must sign a virtual verification form when submitting the data online confirming that the following requirements have been met:

- **Must have a project plan** – A document that includes a purpose statement, the number of samples collected, and quality assurance and quality control protocols for collecting and analyzing samples. Organizations must submit a project plan along with the data.
- **Use widely approved methods** – Sampling and laboratory analysis must follow widely accepted scientific methods and protocols. These may include ORDEQ-MOMs, USEPA, USGS and Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater. All acceptable methods include applicable precision and accuracy checks and are listed in the respective data submission templates.

Data submission requirements

For submitted data to be considered for the Integrated Report, data must meet all of the following requirements:

- **Oregon waters** – Data and information submitted to DEQ must be collected from waters under the state of **Oregon's jurisdiction**.
- **Collected within the data window** – DEQ will be using a five-year data window for the 2026 IR cycle. This data window will overlap with the 2024 Integrated Report to ensure any unreported data will be included. For this reason, DEQ is requesting data from the past five years (**1/1/2020 to 12/31/2024**). This requirement means that a sample date and/or analysis date is required for each result.
- **Related to a specific location** – Assessing water quality is highly dependent on the accuracy of the sample location. All data submitted to DEQ for assessment purposes must include the location of each monitoring station in latitude and longitude, ideally with the associated reference datum (example – NAD83), and a description of the monitoring location that includes the waterbody name.

Translation or other formats

Español | 한국어 | 繁體中文 | Русский | Tiếng Việt | العربية

800-452-4011 | TTY: 711 | deqinfo@deq.oregon.gov

Priority data

DEQ will review all data submitted within the data window. However, some types of data are more readily usable for the assessment process. Please consider the following when considering submitting data to DEQ:

- **Representative of the waterbody** – The water quality assessment process is intended to characterize a waterbody and determine if the designated beneficial uses are being supported. Prior to submitting data, please consider if the data represents ambient conditions in the waterbody. Examples of non-ambient samples include effluent data, data collected in mixing zones, storm event sampling, samples collected in stagnant side-channels or isolated pools, spills or toxic releases, and other sampling outside of normal conditions.
- **Parameters with an assessment methodology** – The assessment methodology provides the framework for interpreting numeric and narrative criteria and making an assessment conclusion (impaired vs. non-impaired) for a waterbody. DEQ will prioritize data with established methodologies. The table below provides a quick reference to parameters for which DEQ currently has methodologies in place to interpret numeric and narrative criteria. More information on the methodology can be found on the [Integrated Report Improvements page](#).

Parameters with assessment methodologies	
Parameter	Water type
Alkalinity*	Freshwater
Ammonia*	Freshwater; Estuarine; Saltwater
Aquatic Weeds	Freshwater; Estuarine; Saltwater
Biocriteria – Macroinvertebrates	Freshwater
Chlorophyll <i>a</i>	Freshwater; Estuarine; Saltwater
Dissolved Oxygen	Freshwater; Estuarine; Saltwater
<i>E. coli</i>	Freshwater; Estuaries (Non-Shellfish Growing)
Enterococci	Estuarine; Saltwater
Fecal Coliform	Estuaries (Shellfish Growing); Saltwater
Nuisance Algae – Harmful Algal Blooms	Freshwater; Estuarine; Saltwater
Nitrates**	Freshwater; Estuarine; Saltwater
pH	Freshwater; Estuarine; Saltwater
Phosphorus Elemental	Estuaries; Saltwater
Temperature	Freshwater; Estuarine; Saltwater
Total Dissolved Gas	Freshwater
Toxic Substances*	Freshwater; Estuarine; Saltwater
Toxic Substances**	Freshwater; Estuarine; Saltwater
Turbidity measured in NTU	Drinking Water; Freshwater; Estuarine; Saltwater

*[Table 30 Aquatic Life Water Quality Criteria for Toxic Pollutants](#). Aluminum will be included in Table 30 once the EPA criteria is adopted by DEQ. A method for analyzing bioavailable aluminum is under review for ASTM certification.

**[Table 40: Human Health Water Quality Criteria for Toxic Pollutants](#)

How to submit data to DEQ

Data submission procedures vary depending on whether data are numeric or non-numeric. Numeric data must be submitted in electronic format using the templates provided on the [Call for Data web page](#).

There are three types of data submission templates: grab, continuous and biological. The templates include associated meta-data, detection limits and information confirming that the samples were collected and

analyzed according to established quality assurance procedures. DEQ expects that organizations submitting continuous data have processed the results according to their respective quality control procedures. All template column headers in green are required. If any of the required columns are empty, the data may not be used. If entering data qualifier codes, a definition must be provided for each code. Lab QA/QC and blank data is not necessary to submit; however, field blank and duplicate data can be submitted as a part of this data solicitation. DEQ may request additional documentation, such as project plans, instrument calibration records, and lab reports.

Examples of non-numeric data include journal articles, state and federal reports and findings and observations. To be used for assessment purposes, non-numeric data that cannot be tabulated in a spreadsheet must meet the following requirements:

- **Related to a specific location** – DEQ cannot assess water quality based on regional (e.g., state, basin or west coast) conclusions. Latitude and longitude where the data were collected are required.
- **Reference the beneficial use impairment** – This will help DEQ understand the context of the submission.

Data validation

Data submitted through the call for data should meet all quality control and assurance guidelines outlined in the submitting agency's project plan. DEQ will screen for completeness, data quality and reasonable range of results. A reasonable range of results is determined by comparing the data to existing data from the region (sub-basin or basin scale). If data meet this first screen, DEQ will include it in its 2026 assessment. If the data are incomplete or outside the reasonable range, DEQ will analyze quality control data and/or follow up with the submitter for supporting documentation. The intent of the validation is not to eliminate data that may be showing a shift outside of a reasonable range, but rather to ensure that there is not an error in transcription or reporting units.

Quick checklist

- ☐ I have not submitted this data as part of the volunteer monitoring program or as a requirement of a MS4 or NPDES permit.
- ☐ I have prepared and followed a project plan, quality assurance project plan, sampling and analysis plan or other similar document, to ensure that data collection, analytical methods and quality control steps are built into the project from the beginning.
- ☐ All sample collection and analysis follow widely approved methods. This includes, but is not limited to, methods outlined in or accepted by ODEQ-MOMs, USEPA, USGS and Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater. Methods used must be specified in the data submission template.
- ☐ I am willing to sign a verification form declaring that all methods and quality control protocols were followed.
- ☐ My data were collected in Oregon.
- ☐ My data were collected and/or analyzed between 1/1/2020 and 12/31/2024.
- ☐ My data characterize a specific location, and I can provide the following information about the location.
 - Location of each monitoring station in latitude and longitude and the reference datum (example – NAD83).
 - Waterbody name and description of the monitoring location.
 - Date the sample was taken.
 - Parameter(s) measured.
 - Measured result for each parameter.

- Unit of measurement.
- Method used for measurement, including method detection limits (MDL) or reporting limits (MRL) where applicable.
- Name and contact information of the entity submitting the data.
- Name of all analytical laboratories used.
- Definition of any qualifier used.

If you have checked all of these boxes, you are ready to submit to DEQ using the templates provided on the on the [Call for Data web page](#). When the call for data is initiated, the website will be updated to include an online form for submitting data. If you are not able to confirm any of the above statements, DEQ will likely not be able to use the data to make conclusions on water quality in Oregon. If you are interested in learning about preparing monitoring project plans and data quality, visit DEQ's [Volunteer Monitoring Program web page](#).

Contact

Please email datahelp.ir@deq.oregon.gov, if you need assistance with the templates, submitting data or have additional questions.

Non-discrimination statement

DEQ does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age, sex, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status in the administration of its programs and activities. Visit DEQ's [Civil Rights and Environmental Justice page](#).