



# Toxics Cleanup Program

## Policy 840: Data Submittal Requirements

*Established:* August 1, 2005

*Revised:* April 12, 2016

*Contact:* Policy & Technical Support Unit, Headquarters

*Purpose:* This Policy provides guidance on the submission of environmental monitoring data generated or collected during the investigation or cleanup of contaminated sites under the Model Toxics Control Act.

*References:* [WAC 173-340-840 \(5\)](#)  
[Chapter 173-204 WAC](#)  
[Environmental Information Management System Database](#)  
[Sediment Cleanup Users Manual II](#)

*Attachments:* A - Model Grant and Permit Condition

*Disclaimer:* This Policy is intended solely for the guidance of Ecology staff. It is not intended, and cannot be relied on, to create rights, substantive or procedural, enforceable by any party in litigation with the state of Washington. Ecology may act at variance with this Policy depending on site-specific circumstances, or modify or withdraw this Policy at any time.

*Approved by:*

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James J. Pendowski, Program Manager  
Toxics Cleanup Program

**Accommodation Requests:** To request ADA accommodation, including materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Program at 360-407-7170. Persons with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. Persons with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.

## **Purpose and Applicability**

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The investigation and cleanup of contaminated sites generate a large volume of environmental monitoring data that need to be properly managed to facilitate regulatory decisions. The data also need to be accessible by Ecology staff, site owners, consultants, and the general public.

This Policy describes the requirements for submitting environmental monitoring data generated or collected during the investigation and cleanup of contaminated sites under Chapter 70.105D RCW, Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA).

This Policy applies to Ecology staff and any person who investigates or cleans up contaminated sites and submits related environmental sampling data to Ecology, including potentially liable persons, Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP) customers, prospective purchasers, government agencies, and Ecology contractors.

**1. Unless otherwise specified by Ecology, all environmental monitoring data generated during contaminated site investigations and cleanups are required to be submitted to Ecology in both written format and electronically through EIM.**

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Environmental monitoring data include biological, chemical, physical, and radiological data generated during site investigations and cleanups under the Model Toxics Control Act Cleanup Regulation (Chapter 173-340 WAC) and the Sediment Management Standards (Chapter 173-204 WAC).

The Environmental Information Management System (EIM) is a searchable database that contains data collected by Ecology (or by environmental contractors on behalf of Ecology), and by Ecology grant recipients, local governments, the regulated community, and volunteers.

Under this Policy, data are considered to be “environmental monitoring data” if generated or collected during:

- a. Site investigations and cleanups conducted under an order, agreed order or consent decree, permit, grant, loan, contract, interagency agreement, memorandum of understanding; or
- b. An independent remedial action.

Under this Policy, data are not considered to be environmental monitoring data if generated or collected for the following studies. This means that entering data into EIM, while encouraged, is optional for:

- a. Non site-specific studies;
- b. Site hazard assessments that result in no further action; and
- c. All initial site investigations.

**2. Orders, agreed orders, consent decrees, or permits must include a condition that site-specific environmental sampling data be submitted in compliance with this Policy.**

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For those reports prepared and submitted for review under an order, agreed order, consent decree, or permit, the environmental sampling data must be entered into EIM at the time of report submittal. If reports for such work do not include documentation that data was submitted in compliance with this Policy, the reports shall be deemed incomplete and a notice will be provided to the submitter.

Generally, Ecology should not review such reports until that documentation is provided. The assistant attorney general assigned to the site should be consulted for an appropriate response when Ecology's review is delayed due to failure of data entry into EIM.

**3. Site-specific environmental sampling data must be entered into EIM before Ecology will review independent remedial action reports under the Voluntary Cleanup Program.**

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For independent remedial action reports prepared and submitted under Ecology's Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP), environmental sampling data must be entered into EIM at the time any report is submitted requesting an opinion on the sufficiency of the action under the VCP.

However, Ecology may establish an alternate deadline for entering data into EIM if this Policy creates undue hardship on the VCP customer and Ecology does not need the data in EIM to begin the review.<sup>1</sup> But in no case will Ecology issue a No Further Action (NFA) opinion letter under the VCP—either for the whole site or a property located within the site—until the data has been entered into EIM.

If sampling data has not been entered into EIM, Ecology may still review the report for the limited purpose of determining whether it contains sufficient information to provide an opinion. If the report is incomplete, Ecology may also respond to the VCP customer's request for an opinion by issuing an administrative letter rejecting the report and requesting additional information.

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<sup>1</sup> For example, when a site has multiple groundwater sampling events over time, it may be more efficient to enter the data into EIM at one time after monitoring is completed, rather than for each monitoring event. Another example would be where a VCP consultant is using EIM for the first time and needs additional time to learn how to use the system.

**4. Grants, contracts, interagency agreements or memoranda of understanding issued after the effective date of this Policy must include a condition that site-specific data be submitted in compliance with this Policy.**

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Reports on such work will not be accepted as complete until the data have been submitted in compliance with this Policy. If a payment or transfer of funds is involved in the transaction, the relevant payment or transfer shall be withheld until this requirement has been met. Attachment A contains example language to include in these documents.

**5. Data generated during upland investigations and cleanups must be submitted electronically using Ecology's EIM.**

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The Environmental Information Management System is Ecology's main database for environmental monitoring data. Proper submission of data through this system meets the requirement of submitting such data in an electronic format.

Additional information about EIM, including instructions for data submittal, can be found on Ecology's EIM website at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/eim/>. The Toxic Cleanup Program's (TCP) EIM Coordinator can also provide technical assistance to site managers and consultants who use EIM.

**6. Data generated during sediment investigations and cleanups must be submitted electronically using Ecology's EIM.**

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Effective March 1, 2008, EIM is Ecology's data management system for sediment-related data. Proper submission of data through EIM meets the requirement of submitting such data in an electronic format. Electronic data must be submitted to Ecology simultaneously with the accompanying report.

For additional information on sediment sampling and analysis plan requirements, see Ecology's *Sediment Cleanup Users Manual (SCUM II)* Publication No. 12-09-057, available at: <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/summarypages/1209057.html>

The Sediment Data Coordinator in TCP's Aquatic Land Cleanup Unit (ALCU) can also provide technical assistance with EIM.

**7. Data submitted electronically using EIM must be checked by the Toxics Cleanup Program's EIM Coordinator before the data will be officially loaded into EIM.**

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Normally, TCP's EIM Coordinator will receive a notice that data have been submitted through EIM. Upon receipt of the notice, the EIM Coordinator should notify the Cleanup Project Manager. The EIM Coordinator then reviews the submittal for quality control and officially loads the data into the system.

**Attachment A**

**Model Grant and Permit Condition**

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## **Model Grant and Permit Condition**

The following condition is to be inserted in grants, loans, contracts, interagency agreements, and memoranda of understandings where site-specific environmental monitoring data is expected to be generated:

All sampling data shall be submitted to Ecology in both printed and electronic formats in accordance with WAC 173-340-840(5) and Ecology Toxics Cleanup Program Policy 840: Data Submittal Requirements. Electronic submittal of data is not required for site hazard assessments that result in no further action and initial site investigations. (FOR GRANTS, AND LOANS ADD: Failure to properly submit sampling data will result in Ecology withholding payment and could jeopardize future funding.)

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