Requesting Data from TCEQ's SWQMIS Database: Frequently Asked Questions

I have never requested data before. Where should I begin?

Begin your data request by accessing the TCEQ's SWQM Standard Data Request Form at the following location: Standard Data Request Form PDF

This form is used by data managers to best identify your data of interest and to customize data reports for your needs. If you would like assistance with form completion or have questions about the form please contact a data manager.

What is the difference between a 'standard' data request and a 'non standard' data request?

Unless you are an advanced data user or have special data requirements you will want to request standard data.

A standard data request consists of data that has passed all quality control measures. No qualified/flagged data are included in a standard data request. A standard data request does not include the actual quality control sample results. The majority of SWQM data requests that are made are standard data requests.

A non standard data request is a more specialized request and allows you access to data that has not passed quality control measures (data that has been qualified/flagged). These data have an increased level of uncertainty associated with them and therefore are not used by the TCEQ for regulatory decisions, water quality assessments, or other applications where the highest quality data is needed. A non standard data request also allows you access to quality control sample measurement values.

What are the date ranges of available data in SWQMIS?

SWQMIS houses data from 1968 to present day.

What if I am not sure of date ranges for my data request?

If you are not sure of date ranges for your request or are interested in all available data that meet your specific criteria please select the 'Entire period of record' option on the request form. If you do know a date range for your request, please specify that range. This will help data managers when filling your data request.

Do I need to know my specific geographic location of interest when requesting data?

It is not necessary to know a specific location when requesting data, but the more specific a request is the better data managers can provide a report customized to your data needs. Data is generally requested by a geographic entity such as TCEQ station ID, segment, or river basin. Data may also be requested statewide.

There are many types of data to choose from. How do I know which type to select?

Most parties who request data are interested in what is considered 'routine' monitoring. Routine monitoring is environmental monitoring that is not biased toward any environmental condition or event. If you are interested in a more specific type of data, such as monitoring targeted toward a specific event, please see the Data Management Reference Guide for a description of monitoring type codes:

Data Management Reference Guide Chapter 13

How do I specify the parameters I am interested in?

Parameters are grouped for convenience on the data request form. Generally parties are interested in receiving data from the 'Field' parameter group and the 'Inorganics/Conventional Chemistry' parameter group. You may also provide specific parameter codes if you know the TCEQ parameter codes for your data or interest. For details on the specific parameters contained in each of the parameter groups listed on the request form please see Chapter 6 of the Data Management Reference Guide:

Data Management Reference Guide Chapter 6

What if I am interested in quality control data or data that did not pass quality control measures?

If you are interested in these special data types, please complete a Non Standard Data Request Form, in addition to the Standard Data Request Form.

Non Standard Data Request Form PDF

How do I ensure that my request gets to the right place?

After completing your request form with as much detail as possible please use the 'Submit by Email' button to electronically send the request to a TCEQ data manager. You may be contacted by a data manager if needed to discuss details about your request. You should also use the 'Print Form' button to save a copy of your request for your records.

In what format will I receive my data request?

Data requests are generally filled as pipe-delimited text files (*.txt) or comma separated value files (*.csv). Both file types can be easily imported into other applications. If you need your data request filled in a specific format please include this information on your request form. Data Managers will make every effort to provide your data as requested.

How long will it take for me to receive my request?

Please allow 7-10 business days for data requests to be processed and filled. Requests for large amounts of data could possibly take longer to fill.