

Office of Water Quality Technical Memorandum 2008.02

Subject: National Water Information System—Guidance for using CAS Registry Numbers and USEPA Substance Registry Names

This memo describes two new attributes that were added to the National Water Information System (NWIS) 4.7 parameter table (formerly the Parameter Code Dictionary) and provides guidance on how they should be used in publications. These attributes are the American Chemical Society's Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) Registry Number (CASRN) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Substance Registry System (SRS) Name.

CASRN

The CAS maintains a database of chemical substances indexed by the CASRN. The CASRN provides an internationally recognized common link between the various nomenclature terms used to describe substances or molecular structures by scientists, industry, and regulatory bodies.

USEPA SRS

The USEPA SRS is the Environmental Protection Agency's system for information about regulated and monitored substances and provides a common basis for identification of chemicals, biological organisms, and other substances listed in USEPA regulations, data systems, publications, and other sources. The SRS is an integral part of support for USEPA's Chemical Identification Data Standard and can be searched using a web browser at the URL: <http://www.epa.gov/srs/>

An on-going project between the USGS and the USEPA will eventually provide a system where data from NWIS and STORET may be provided to the public in a common format. As part of this project, many parameter codes in the NWIS system have been assigned USEPA SRS names.

Publication Guidance

The American Chemical Society requires that unlicensed users of their CASRN include the following text when using their numbers in a publication. USGS has not purchased a CASRN license; therefore, the following text must be used in all published reports:

"This report contains CAS Registry Numbers[®], which is a Registered Trademark of the American Chemical Society. CAS recommends the verification of the CASRNs through CAS Client ServicesSM."

The CASRN text should be placed in a footnote in the body of the report or table where the CASRN is first used.

The SRS information may be included in publications. No special disclaimer is required.

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This memorandum does not supersede any other Office of Water Quality Technical Memorandum.

Distribution: All WRD Employees

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