Topic: QWDATA and Sediment PCODEs & Method Codes

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Background:

There have long been problems with PCODEs defined in QWDATA. When needed PCODEs were not available, data have been stored in the WRONG PCODE. New PCODEs were created at various times, and for many of the sediment families, the "method" is embedded in the PCODE names.

Known problems are:

 Bed Sediment pcodes are badly named, with method embedded in the parameter name

 Sed Lab(s) have used "dry sieved" pcodes for wet sieved analyses

 Duplicate METHOD codes are defined, for the same method

 2 pcodes (69589, and 69600) exist for "Bed Sed, wet sieved, % smaller than 0.0625 mm"

Issues to Discuss:

1. Why doesn’t everyone know of existing pcodes? A user recently asked Aimee about requesting "Bed Sed, Wet Sieved", which were created over a year ago.

2. What can be done to identify and fix the known history of storing "wet sieved" analyses in "dry sieved" pcodes?

3. Do we want to try to clean up the current PCODEs and METHOD codes? Shall a team investigate the "mess" and instigate cleanup efforts? It may take one or 2 years to see this to completion. Some cleanup must be done during an NWIS upgrade, which happens just once each year (except 2012 will NOT be available). Some Web pages documenting this problem:

Ken’s attempt to describe the Problem and steps to Cleanup:

<http://orinternal.wr.usgs.gov/uo/skach/sediment/PCODE_CLEANUP/index.html>