



Office of Water Quality Water-Quality Information Note 2010.06

Subject: Spike Calculator Release for General Use

The Spike Calculator tool announced in [WaQI Note 2009.09](#) has been released for use by all USGS staff. This tool will calculate the percent recovery of quality-control compounds spiked into environmental samples and analyzed at the National Water Quality Laboratory (NWQL). The Spike Calculator is now available at <https://internal.mdc.usgs.gov/spikecalculator/>. It also can be accessed through the internal Office of Water Quality (OWQ) web page under "Software" (<http://water.usgs.gov/usgs/owq/>).

All data necessary for calculating spike recovery are stored in QWDATA or in the NWQL Laboratory Information System. The Spike Calculator will retrieve the data, do the arithmetic, and produce a report so the user can evaluate the recovery efficiency of chemical analysis in a specific environmental matrix and, thus, better understand and interpret the environmental analytical results. You are invited to use the calculator for any project with analytical data stored in NWIS that include samples spiked from NWQL spike lots.

The calculator has been tested by users in several Water Science Centers (WSC), and two training webinars were presented in late 2009. New users are encouraged to start by reading the online documentation, which is accessible through links on the calculator home and login pages. Webinar demonstrations of the calculator will be offered on the following dates:

Wednesday, May 5, 2010, at 12:00 noon Eastern (9:00 am Pacific)
Thursday, May 13, 2010, at 2:30 pm Eastern (11:30 am Pacific)

Both demos cover the same material, and each will last about 45 minutes. You must pre-register for these demonstrations by visiting <https://usgs.webex.com/>.

Development of the Spike Calculator was funded by OWQ and NAWQA based on an idea initially offered by a WSC scientist. Programming was provided by Phethala Thongsavanh of the Wisconsin WSC Center for Integrated Data Analytics. Questions or comments about the calculator can be addressed to the Lotus email group GS-Spike-Rec-Support.

WaQI Notes are archived on the Office of Water Quality Web site,
<http://water.usgs.gov/usgs/owq/WaQI/index.html>.

Signed,

The Office of Water Quality
04/13/2010

Distribution: All WRD Employees