



April 15, 2004

Office of Water Quality Water-Quality Information Note 2004.10

Subject: Field Methods—Official Release of Personal Computer Field Forms (PCFF) Version 5.0

The purpose of this note is to announce the official release of Version 5.0 of the Personal Computer Field Forms (PCFF) software. This software provides the users with an efficient way to record surface-water and ground-water water-quality field notes and measures electronically. It also includes a function for downloading stream discharge measurement data from the JBS Instruments Aquacalc discharge measurement computer. All data entered into PCFF can be easily entered into the National Water Information System (NWIS) using batch input routines. Some benefits of the PCFF software are:

One-time data entry--no paper forms

Use of pick lists—no need to look up codes, etc.

Required entry of mandatory fields—more complete field notes

Batch data entry used to log samples into the NWIS database and enter field data—no transcription errors; saves time in the office

Printing of completed Analytical Services Request Forms (ASRs) for the National Water Quality Laboratory (NWQL) and the various sediment laboratories

Printing of completed field forms for review and filing

All current PCFF 5.0 users must update to this release (dated 04-12-2004). All users of older versions of PCFF must upgrade to version 5.0 as older versions are no longer being supported.

The software can be obtained from <ftp://hqwiftp.er.usgs.gov/pub/owq/pcff>. This link is accessible from the PCFF web site at:

<http://water.usgs.gov/usgs/owq/pcff.html>

Instructions for installing and configuring PCFF, as well as for updating previously-installed copies of version 5.0, are also available at the PCFF web site. User documentation and help for PCFF functions are available from within PCFF.

Also available from the link above is a file named PCFF-CD.zip that can be used to create a cd-rom from which PCFF can be installed or updated. To create the cd, unzip the files to a new folder. Then write the unzipped files to a cd. The PCFF install screen will open automatically when the cd is placed in the computer. If there is no current version of PCFF installed, then PCFF 5.0 will be installed. If a current version of PCFF is installed, it will be updated.

Information about fixes, changes, and updates in this version of PCFF are in the README file that's attached to this Note.

Questions about the software should be referred to Frank Crenshaw (fccrensh@usgs.gov).

If this Note was forwarded to you and you'd like to have your name placed on the WaQI Notes distribution, please send email to nlsnow@usgs.gov.

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

