



July 22, 2004

Office of Water Quality Water-Quality Information Note 2004.14

Subject: Field Methods -- Availability of zip file of current National Field Manual chapters

To assist field personnel in keeping their personal copies of the *National Field Manual for the Collection of Water-Quality Data* (NFM) up to date, the Office of Water Quality is providing a zip file that contains the pdf version of the most current chapters of the NFM. The zip file can be found near the top of the NFM home page (<http://water.usgs.gov/owq/FieldManual/>), along with a link to download instructions. After the zip file has been downloaded and unzipped, the files can be printed to replace your current hard copy, or written to a CD. The zip file that currently is posted is dated July 2004; the next update of the zip file is planned for September 2004.

Due to the ongoing advances in water-quality sampling technology, knowledge, and needs, it is extremely important that project personnel keep current with changes in protocols, equipment, and field methods as provided in the NFM. Field personnel are advised of their responsibility to check the on-line version of the NFM each month for recent changes and to replace outdated sections with current versions. Water-quality specialists are reminded of the necessity to alert their water-quality personnel of NFM updates. (USGS personnel will notice that some chapter Web pages contain USGS-internal announcements about updated chapters or sections that have received Director's approval, but that are not yet available to the public until the final document formatting is completed. This delay in announcing updates to the public may take several months, depending on the schedule of USGS publications units.)

As always, we appreciate your input for improving this process.

Constructive comments and questions should be addressed to fwilde@usgs.gov.