Office of Water Quality Water-Quality Information Note 2005.13

Subject: Field Methods— Release of Personal Computer Field Forms (PCFF) Version 5.2 PATCH

The purpose of this note is to announce the release of a patch for Version 5.2 of the Personal Computer Field Forms (PCFF) software. This is a critical patch that should be applied as soon as possible. This patch resolves the following issues:

> 1. A serious problem that can result in a loss of data. This problem will occur if PCFF crashes but continues to run, and a second instance of PCFF is started up, and new data are entered. Upon the termination of the crashed program, all data entered after the first program crashed will be gone. This fix prevents PCFF from starting up more than once, and will set a flag in the database engine to fix a bug that resulted in out-of-date indexes.

> 2. A bug in the Ground-Water Water-Quality section that prevented a well purge from being edited after initial entry.

> 3. A bug that prevented the database backup routine from saving to drive letters higher than F:\. Drive letters A through Z may now be utilized for backups. All mapped drives will appear in the backup drive pick list.

> 4. Overwrite of database backup files. The database backup routine was modified so that each backup is saved in a uniquely named, separate folder containing backup files. The backup folder name automatically includes the date/time when the backup occurred to avoid overwriting previous backup folders.

The patch can be obtained from http://water.usgs.gov/usgs/owq/pcff.html.

Instructions for installing and updating (*Getting Started – New Install and Update of PCFF*) and for configuring PCFF (*Getting Started – Configure PCFF*) are also available at this link. To obtain this patch, go to the link, click on **PCFF_CD07132005.zip**, and save the compressed file to your computer. Follow the instructions in the installation document.

The PCFF software provides users with an efficient way to record surface-water and ground-water water-quality field notes and measurements 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 may be easily uploaded to the National Water Information System (NWIS) using batch input routines.

Information about changes and updates in this version of PCFF are in the README file that's also available at the link above.

Questions about the software should be directed 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