



October 5, 2007

Office of Water Quality Water-Quality Information Note 2008.02

Subject: Field Methods— Release of Personal Computer Field Forms (PCFF) Version 6.1

NOTE: WebEx cyber seminars titled “What’s New in PCFF 6.1” are scheduled for the following dates/times [\[https://usgs.webex.com/mw0304l/mywebex/default.do?siteurl=usgs\]](https://usgs.webex.com/mw0304l/mywebex/default.do?siteurl=usgs):

Wednesday, October 10 at noon EDT

Monday, October 15 at 3pm EDT

Wednesday, October 17 at noon EDT

No registration needed. Call-in number is 866-758-5260; Passcode is 4370297.

It is strongly recommended that ALL PCFF users or potential users attend one of these seminars as the changes in PCFF 6.1 are significant.

The purpose of this Note is to announce the release of Version 6.1 (10/04/2007) of the Personal Computer Field Forms (PCFF) software. The Office of Water Quality and the Colorado Water Science Center jointly supported development of this software release. This software provides users with an efficient way to record surface-water and ground-water water-quality field notes, calibrations, 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 are easily uploaded to 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
- Internal calculations for alkalinity titrations and microbiology counts—no math errors
- 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)
- Printing of completed field forms for review and filing

Significant, new features in this release are: 1) the separate surface-water and ground-water forms have been eliminated and replaced by a single view that shows all samples and their processing status; 2) the ability to produce multiple Analytical Services Request Forms (ASRs) has been added; 3) a new “datapump” feature has been added allowing the user to easily upload data to NWIS and immediately see the resulting WATLIST; and 4) a new “Print All” button has been added, allowing users to print all forms with the click of a single button.

Following is a detailed list of fixes and enhancements:

- 1) Added a new QW Control form that makes the old SWQW/GWQW section of PCFF obsolete. All water-quality samples are now stored and managed from the same location. The QW Control form features new ways to make it much easier to sort and select QW samples.
- 2) New "PRINT ALL" function which allows you to print all the forms for all selected samples in the QW Control form.
- 3) Added a "Field ID" field to PCFF that is initially entered in the Site Configuration tab. This Field ID prints on field forms and ASR forms and can be used to identify sample bottles at the NWQL and can be searched during site selection.
- 4) Added Multiple ASR capability that was initially developed with support from the GAMA project of the California Water Science Center. The Multiple ASR capability allows the user to configure Template ASRs and ASR groups that can be selected for use with a sample. Users now have the ability to produce more than one ASR per sample.
- 5) Introducing the DATA PUMP – a much faster, easier method to upload QW sample data into NWIS. The DATA PUMP will upload your sample data into the NWIS database and download the new Watlist into PCFF, to be stored with your sample for review and easy printing along Field Forms and ASRs.
- 6) NWIS 09/07 Quarterly coding update added the following:

Alkalinity Parameter/Method Codes

Parameter Code	Method Code	Description
39086	TT061	Alkalinity, water, filtered, incremental titration, field, milligrams per liter as calcium carbonate
39086	TT062	Alkalinity, water, filtered, incremental titration, field, milligrams per liter as calcium carbonate
00453	TT061	Bicarbonate, water, filtered, incremental titration, field, milligrams per liter
00453	TT062	Bicarbonate, water, filtered, incremental titration, field, milligrams per liter
00452	TT061	Carbonate, water, filtered, incremental titration, field, milligrams per liter
00452	TT062	Carbonate, water, filtered, incremental titration, field, milligrams per liter
00419	TT065	Acid neutralizing capacity, water, unfiltered, incremental titration, field, milligrams per liter as calcium carbonate
00419	TT066	Acid neutralizing capacity, water, unfiltered, incremental titration, field, milligrams per liter as calcium carbonate
00450	TT065	Bicarbonate, water, unfiltered, incremental titration, field, milligrams per liter
00450	TT066	Bicarbonate, water, unfiltered, incremental titration, field, milligrams per liter
00447	TT065	Carbonate, water, unfiltered, incremental titration, field, milligrams per liter
00447	TT066	Carbonate, water, unfiltered, incremental titration, field, milligrams per liter

29802	TT056	Alkalinity, water, filtered, Gran titration, field, milligrams per liter as calcium carbonate
29802	TT057	Alkalinity, water, filtered, Gran titration, field, milligrams per liter as calcium carbonate
63786	TT056	Bicarbonate, water, filtered, Gran titration, field, milligrams per liter
63786	TT057	Bicarbonate, water, filtered, Gran titration, field, milligrams per liter
63788	TT056	Carbonate, water, filtered, Gran titration, field, milligrams per liter
63788	TT057	Carbonate, water, filtered, Gran titration, field, milligrams per liter
29813	TT058	Acid neutralizing capacity, water, unfiltered, Gran titration, field, milligrams per liter as calcium carbonate
29813	TT059	Acid neutralizing capacity, water, unfiltered, Gran titration, field, milligrams per liter as calcium carbonate

KNOWN ISSUES:

The Help file will sometimes fail to launch if called from within PCFF. When clicking the help button located on a form, a message indicating that the help file cannot be found is sometimes displayed. The only known fix is to close PCFF and reopen it - the help file should then launch normally when pressing the help buttons.

Lot Number items that don't have an expiration date filled in will not be listed in the favorites list view. A work around is to include an expiration date, even if the item doesn't have an expiration date.

The PCFF software can be obtained from <http://water.usgs.gov/usqs/owq/pcff.html>.

Instructions for installing and configuring PCFF, as well as recovering a backup, are also available at this link. User documentation and help for PCFF functions are available from within PCFF.

*****Users must make sure that their PCFF Version 6.0 database is backed up prior to updating to PCFF Version 6.1. PCFF 6.1 should be used ONLY after your office has NWIS 4.7 installed. PCFF 6.1 is not compatible with NWIS 4.6.***

The downloadable file available from the link above is named PCFF_61b.zip. After downloading the file to your PC, double click the icon and select RUN to unzip the files. Double click the PCFF 6 icon on your desktop to run PCFF.

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/usqs/owq/WaQI/index.html>