



December 3, 2007

Office of Water Quality Water-Quality Information Note 2008.04

Subject: Field Methods—Availability of information on storing turbidity data

Clarification-- *Parameter codes 00076 and 61028 remain available in NWIS for retrieval purposes, but cannot be used for entry of new data. Historical data remain stored under these codes and should be moved to the new codes ONLY if enough is known about the data to move them to the appropriate codes. Other parameter codes that are no longer to be used for entry of new data are:*

00070 Turbidity, water, unfiltered, Jackson Turbidity Units
00071 TURBIDITY HELIGE (JACKSON CANDLE UNITS) JCU
45636 TURBIDITY, LAB, MG/L, WATER, TOTAL
82079 Turbidity, water, unfiltered, laboratory, nephelometric turbidity units
99872 Turbidity, water, unfiltered, laboratory, Hach 2100AN, nephelometric turbidity units

This Note is a reminder of the documents and tools that are available to assist NWIS QWDATA users in storing turbidity data. A revision of National Field Manual (NFM) Chapter 6.7—Turbidity and the implementation of new reporting units and parameter/method code pairs were announced in Office of Water Quality (OWQ) Technical Memorandum 2004.03 (September 24, 2004) [<http://water.usgs.gov/admin/memo/QW/gw04.03.html>]. The memo announced that parameter code 00076 (Turbidity, water, unfiltered, nephelometric turbidity units) was no longer to be used for storing turbidity data. With the release of NWIS 4.7, parameter code 00076, as well as 61028 (Turbidity, water, unfiltered, field, nephelometric turbidity units), were disabled in QWDATA and can no longer be used to store data. All turbidity data must be stored using the new set of codes described in OWQ Tech Memo 2004.03. These codes are based on the instrument used to make the measurement. A program named *do.pcode.swap* is available to aid in transferring historical data to the new codes if sufficient information is known about the data [<http://phoenix.cr.usgs.gov/reload/reload.html>].

Cyber seminars were held at the time to inform field personnel of the changes being made. The slides from the seminar are available at <http://water.usgs.gov/usgs/owq/training.html>.

Links to the current list of parameter/method code pairs for turbidity and an information sheet describing the new procedures follow:

- Turbidity parameter codes and methods codes (January 2007) -- Excel spreadsheet (If a pop-up window appears, click "No.")
- U.S. Geological Survey Implements New Turbidity Data-Reporting Procedures--
Information Sheet

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