

# WQX User Call

## March 26, 2026

There were approximately 39 participants on the call.

### Agenda:

- 1) WQX Status Report (5 min)
  - a) WQX Project Status Report (Kevin)
    - i) WQX Team is working through issues with WQX data exchange to the Water Quality Portal. There may be lags when data uploaded to WQX will be visible on WQP until the issues are worked out. Server Impacted CPU usage from DoS (Denial of Service) Attacks.
    - ii) Next User Call: Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026 12 – 1pm ET
  - b) WQX helpdesk report (Tim/Kevin/Emi)

WQX HelpDesk Stats for February 2026 (from Tim Strick)

Category	Count	% of Total
New user requests	18	20%
General inquiries (Misc)	14	16%
WQX Web assistance	43	49%
Water Quality Portal inquiries (data)	13	15%
<b>Total (relevant tickets)</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>100%</b>
Total emails (includes NA = 271)	349	

- 2) Water Quality Portal Status Report (5 min)
  - a) WQP General Status Report (Candice/USGS)
    - i) Running as expected
    - ii) To see last time of data refresh (when the Portal last picked up data from WQX) – scroll down to the footer

The screenshot shows the footer of the Water Quality Portal. It includes navigation links: "What is the WQP?", "Contributing orgs", "Apps using the WQP", "Other Water Quality Portals", and "Explore WQP sites". On the left are the logos for USGS (science for a changing world) and EPA (United States Environmental Protection Agency). In the center, a red box highlights the text: "NWIS (USGS) Last Content Change: Continuous" and "WQX (EPA) Last Content Change: 2026-03-19". On the right is the "Agency Contact Center" with the phone number 1-800-424-9067 and email WQX@epa.gov.

- iii) Expect to have increased capacity to get back into WQP development. Please reach out if you experience performance issues.
  - b) Review of new BETA Portal User Interface (UI)
    - i) To Provide feedback, Email [wxq@epa.gov](mailto:wqx@epa.gov).
  - c) Questions

### 3) WQX Web UI Demo: *Uploading crosstab data to WQX cont. from last call* (Kevin)

Continuation of demo from past call on how to upload wide-formatted data to WQX. Notes are posted on the [EPA GAFTP site](#).

Crosstab WQX templates are available to WQX users (CROSSTAB\_DataPhysicalChemical and CROSSTAB\_DataNutrients) on WQX Web. Corresponding example datasets are available on the EPA FTP site [CROSSTAB\\_WideFORMAT](#) section. The configuration templates are to be used as learning tools and a starting point to create your own customized crosstab import configuration that is mapped to your specific data structure. You can save a copy of the template and modify to fit your data.

### WQX Crosstab Template – CROSSTAB\_DataPhysicalChemical

The screenshot shows the 'Import Configuration' interface for the 'CROSSTAB\_DataPhysicalChemical' template. The page includes a navigation menu with options like Home Page, Setup, Domain Values, Import & Submit, Review, Administrator, and Help. Below the menu are buttons for Return, Save, Save As, Save To File, Cancel, Delete, Change User Rights, Options, and Show Columns as Numbers. The configuration fields are as follows:

- Type: Results & Activities
- Owner: .WQX Web User [Change Owner](#)
- Name\*: CROSSTAB\_DataPhysicalChemical
- Description: (empty text area)
- File Type\*: Microsoft Excel (xlsx)
- Worksheet(s) to Import: 1st (note: the "1st" worksheet is the left-most tab of the Excel Workbook)
- This is a template (shared with all users)
- Template Use: Direct Use or Copy Allowed

To be able to create more complex Import Configurations and Translations, go to Options (upper menu button) > check Expert Mode (for Configuration) and Expert Mode (for Translations).

### Generated Values

Can specify what values need to be generated when uploaded to WQX (if there are WQX required elements that are not in your data file).

Generated Values (not in your import file):

	Entity	Entity #	Element	Value
	Organization	All	Organization ID	{none}
	Activity	All	Activity ID	[ Automatic - See Options ]
	Activity	All	<a href="#">Activity Type</a>	<a href="#">Field Msr/Obs-Continuous Time Series</a>
	Activity	All	<a href="#">Activity Media Name</a>	<a href="#">Water</a>
	Activity Project	All	Project ID	{none}
	Activity	All	<a href="#">Sample Collection Method ID</a>	{none}
	Activity	All	<a href="#">Sample Collection Equipment Name</a>	<a href="#">Probe/Sensor</a>
	Result	All	<a href="#">Result Status ID</a>	<a href="#">Final</a>
	Result	All	<a href="#">Result Value Type</a>	<a href="#">Actual</a>

Unique Activity IDs must be assigned for each unique combination of Activity elements (*Monitoring Location, Activity Start Date, Activity Type, Activity Media Name*, etc). In WQX Web Options, unique *Activity IDs* can be generated automatically by




concatenating the following WQX elements: Monitoring Location, Activity Date, Activity Time, Activity Type, Activity Depth, and Activity Sample Collection Equipment.

Note: High frequency data (e.g., probe data) would have duplicated activity elements over short time periods, which can generate excessive numbers of Activity IDs that may not accurately represent the data – e.g., unique activities every 5 minutes. To prevent this, we recommend submitting Date, Time, and Depth elements as Results by associating them with WQX elements *Analysis Start Date*, *Analysis Start Time*, and *Result Depth*.

Mapping to the dataset (in this case an excel spreadsheet)







Treatment of the header row

Header-Row Columns (a single value here applies to each regular row of your import file):

	Column	Row	Entity
  		1	{Ignore Row}

Regular columns (starting row 2 of your dataset)



Regular Columns (starting at row 2 of your import file)

	Column	Entity	Entity #	Element	User Supplied Element Name	Format	When Column...	Then Use These Values	Translations
  	A	Activity	1	Activity Start Date	Sample Date	MM/DD/YYYY			1 <a href="#">Edit</a>
		Result	1.1	Analysis Start Date		MM/DD/YYYY			
  	B	Result	1.1	Analysis Start Time	Time	HH24:MI:SS	Is Not Blank	=@ImportValue	1 <a href="#">Edit</a>
		Result	1.1	<a href="#">Analysis Start Time Zone</a>		(String 4)		MST	

How to interpret: In the dataset that will be uploaded, Column A is labeled “Sample Date” and is mapped to two WQX elements: *Activity Start Date* and *Analysis Start Date* with the date format MM/DD/YYYY.


Column B is labeled “Time” and is mapped to WQX elements *Analysis Start Time* (HH24:MI:SS) and *Analysis Start Time Zone*.

This column includes a translation that says, “When Column B ‘Is Not Blank’ Then ‘Use these values’... for *Analysis Start Time* use the value in the cell (@ImportValue) and for *Analysis Start Time Zone* use ‘MST’.”

Translations						
Return	Save	Cancel	Add New	Disable Expert Mode		
	Priority	When Column B ...	Then	Analysis Start Time	Analysis Start Time Zone	
 	4	Is Not Blank	Use these values	=@ImportValue	MST	


Mapping crosstab variables

Column D reports values for “DO %”. More metadata is needed to properly document this data.

Additional WQX elements can be added to this column by clicking on . Column D includes WQX elements *Characteristic Name* (see domain list for accepted names), *Result Value*, *Result*

Unit, Result Analytical Method ID, Result Analytical Method Context, Result Detection Condition, and Characteristic Name User Supplied.

Note Elements with hyperlinks (underlined in blue) indicate they are associated with domain values – see [GetDomainValues](#) for approved values for WQX elements.

	Column	Entity	Entity #	Element	User Supplied Element Name	Format	When Column...	Then Use These Values	Translations
	D	Result	1.2	<a href="#">Result Detection Condition</a>	DO %	(String 35)	Is Not Blank	[ Blank ]	1 <a href="#">Edit</a>
		Result	1.2	<a href="#">Characteristic Name</a>		(String 255)		Dissolved oxygen (DO)	
		Result	1.2	Result Value		(String 60)		=@ImportValue	
		Result	1.2	<a href="#">Result Unit</a>		(String 12)		%	
		Result	1.2	<a href="#">Result Analytical Method ID</a>		(String 35)		[ Blank ]	
		Result	1.2	<a href="#">Result Analytical Method Context</a>		(String 120)		[ Blank ]	
		Result	1.2	Characteristic Name User Supplied		(String 255)		DO %	

Column D includes the following translation

When Column D :

Is Not Blank

Then:

Use these element values...

<a href="#">Result Detection Condition</a>	[ Blank ]
<a href="#">Characteristic Name</a>	Dissolved oxygen (DO)
<a href="#">Result Value</a>	=@ImportValue
<a href="#">Result Unit</a>	%
<a href="#">Result Analytical Method ID</a>	[ Blank ]
<a href="#">Result Analytical Method Context</a>	[ Blank ]
<a href="#">Characteristic Name User Supplied</a>	DO %

The translation specifies “When Column D ‘Is Not Blank’, Then ‘Use these element values’...

Result Detection Condition: blank (not relevant in this case)

Characteristic Name: “Dissolved oxygen (DO)” this is the WQX approved name

Result Value: =@ImportValue Use the value in the cell

Result Unit: “%”

Result Analytical Method ID: blank (not relevant in this case)

Result Analytical Method Context: blank (not relevant in this case)

Characteristic Name User Supplied: “DO %” – not required

### Translation Macro functions

**Expression Builder**

**Close**



	=CONCATENATE(MID(@ImportValue, 5, 2), "-", MID(@ImportValue, 7, 2), "-", MID(@ImportValue, 1, 4))	MM-DD-YYYY
StationID-SampleRoutine	=Split(Trim(Split(@ImportValue, "-", 1)), ".", 1)	StationID
StationID.01 Water-SampleRoutine	=Concatenate("Sample layer is Above pycnocline. SerialNumber: ", Split(@ImportValue, "_", 2)) =Concatenate("Sample layer is Below euphotic zone. SerialNumber: ", Split(@ImportValue, "_", 2)) =Concatenate("Sample layer is Whole water column. SerialNumber: ", Split(@ImportValue, "_", 2))	StationID

\* WQX Web Translations and Expression Builder allow for datasets to remain in original format

### Continuous Data Guidance

WQX is designed for discrete data but can accept high-frequency, continuous data, with conditions. We recommend summarizing high-frequency data over relevant time periods (e.g., yearly, monthly, weekly, or daily) and reporting up to six statistics (e.g., mean, min, max, standard deviation).

Date and time of the sampling (e.g., probe deployment) can be reported as a period of time with the *Activity Start/End Date*.

The time period associated with the summary statistic should be reported at the Result level – *Analysis Start/End Date*.

The original data can be attached as a zip folder with the full time-series records in plan text “.txt”, “.csv”

For data findability in the Water Quality Portal – we recommend assigning “ProjectID” = “EPACONTINUOUS” to continuous data that has been summarized. You can also include a program specific project ID. If your dataset includes both discrete and continuous data mixed together, we still recommend including the ProjectID = “EPACONTINUOUS”.

Other relevant WQX elements can be added to the import configuration to best document your data. Contact the WQX Helpdesk ([wxq@epa.gov](mailto:wqx@epa.gov)) if you would like assistance in creating an import configuration customized to your data.

- 4) Open Discussion/Office Hours (5 min)
  - a) WQP/WQX questions/comments
  - b) Any other topics/questions
- 5) Provide Feedback on WQX/WQP: Email [wxq@epa.gov](mailto:wqx@epa.gov)
  - a) Request Data 1 on 1 assistance

*Minutes from past meetings can be found [here](#).*