

## **National Ground-Water Monitoring Network Monitoring Location Registry Field Definitions**

Note: Underlined fields are required for all sites.

**Agency** – The name of the agency or organization that collects, owns and/or manages the data. If you don't see your agency or organization in the list, contact Candice Hopkins ([chopkins@usgs.gov](mailto:chopkins@usgs.gov))

**Display Site?** – Flag that controls whether the site will be displayed on the NGWMN Data Portal (Yes/No)

**Site No** – The local unique well or spring identification number or code. We will be requesting water levels and water-quality data from 'Organization'- owned/managed databases by this unique well identifier. This identifier may be alphanumeric but should not contain spaces.

**Site Name** – The local name of well or spring

**State** – The U.S. State or Territory within which the well or spring resides

**County** – The name of the county within which the well or spring resides

**Latitude\*** – The site latitude, in decimal degrees to the accuracy of your measurement

**Longitude\*** – The site longitude, in decimal degrees (Negative for Western Hemisphere) to the accuracy of your measurement

**Horizontal Datum** – Horizontal reference datum for the latitude and longitude of a well (NAD83, NAD27, WGS84, etc.) If you don't see the datum you are looking for in the list, contact Candice Hopkins ([chopkins@usgs.gov](mailto:chopkins@usgs.gov))

**Lat/Long Method** - method used to obtain the site's latitude and longitude (horizontal location)

**Lat/Long Accuracy** - accuracy of the site's latitude and longitude (horizontal location) in feet

**Altitude** – elevation of the land surface at the site

**Altitude Units** – units of measure associated with the Altitude field (ft, in, m, cm)

**Altitude Datum** – vertical reference datum for the altitude of a well (NGVD29, NAVD88, etc.)

**Altitude Method** – method used to obtain the site's elevation or altitude

**Altitude Accuracy** – accuracy of the site's elevation or altitude measurement

**Well Depth** – depth of the well from a specified point of reference

**Well Depth Units** – units of measure associated with the well depth field (ft, in, m, cm)

**National Aquifer** – This is the national aquifer designation used by the USGS for [U.S. Principal Aquifers](#)

**Local Aquifer Name** – The name used for the local aquifer designation

**Site Type** – The type of groundwater site (Well or Spring)

**Aquifer Type** – Characteristic of the type of aquifer that the well is completed in (Confined or Unconfined). For the NGWMN, shallow semi-confined wells can be considered to be unconfined if they respond to climatic fluctuations in a relatively short period of time

**In WL Subnetwork?** – Is the well part of the WL network (default is checked)? All checked wells, will be included in the NGWMN WL network. (Yes/No)

**WL System Name** – The system from which water level data from the well or spring will be served to the portal

**WL Baseline?** – A 'baseline' period of at least 5 years of data must be available to achieve the 'baseline period' for a well or spring. Has the baseline period for water levels been satisfied (are there 5 years of data)? (Yes/No) (See the NGWMN Subnetwork Tip Sheet for additional guidance)

**WL Well Type** – Three choices are possible: (a) 'Trend', (b) 'Surveillance', or (c) 'Special Studies'. 'Trend' wells have a monitoring frequency appropriate to determine long-trends and seasonal variability (quarterly), 'Surveillance' wells are 'synoptic' snapshots of data used to tied together the 'Trend' wells. 'Special Studies' wells are likely to be local areas of depletion or impairment. (See the NGWMN Monitoring Categories Tip Sheet for additional guidance)

**WL Well Characteristics** – The characteristics of the aquifer that the well represents. There are 3 options: (a) 'Background', (b) 'Suspected/Anticipated Changes', or (c) 'Known Changes'. This column is blank if the site is still in the baseline period. (See the NGWMN Subnetwork Tip Sheet for additional guidance)

**WL Well Purpose** – A two-category classification to document well's original purpose: (a) 'Dedicated Monitoring/Observation', or (b) 'Other' (i.e., not a dedicated monitoring well)

**WL Well Purpose Notes** – Description of a well's purpose or additional notes about the classification of a well within the WL subnetwork

**In QW Subnetwork?** – Is the well part of the QW network (default is checked)? All checked wells will be included in the NGWMN QW network. (Yes/No)

**QW System Name** – The system from which water quality data from the well or spring will be served to the portal

**QW Baseline?** – A ‘baseline’ period of at least 5 years of data must be available to achieve the ‘baseline period’ for a well or spring. Has the baseline period for water quality been satisfied (are there 5 years of data)? (Yes/No) (See the NGWMN Subnetwork Tip Sheet for additional guidance)

**QW Well Type** – Three choices are possible: (a) ‘Trend’, (b) ‘Surveillance’, or (c) ‘Special Studies’. ‘Trend’ wells have a monitoring frequency appropriate to determine long-trends and seasonal variability (quarterly), ‘Surveillance’ wells are ‘synoptic’ snapshots of data used to tie together the ‘Trend’ wells. ‘Special Studies’ wells are likely to be local areas of depletion or impairment. (See the NGWMN Monitoring Categories Tip Sheet for additional guidance)

**QW Well Characteristics** – The characteristics of the aquifer that the well represents. There are 3 options: (a) ‘Background’, (b) ‘Suspected/Anticipated Changes’, or (c) ‘Known Changes’. This column is blank if the site is still in the baseline period. (See the NGWMN Subnetwork Tip Sheet for additional guidance)

**QW Well Purpose** – A two-category classification to document well’s original purpose: (a) ‘Dedicated Monitoring/Observation’, or (b) ‘Other’ (i.e., not a dedicated monitoring well)

**QW Well Purpose Notes** – Description of a well’s purpose or additional notes about the classification of a well within the QW subnetwork

**Link** – URL to a cooperators site or any other relevant site that contains additional information about the well

\* Decimal Degrees is the preferred format for latitude and longitude data. You may provide the latitude and longitude data in whatever horizontal datum you prefer. Please select a single horizontal datum for all of your sites’ lat-longs, if possible. If decimal degrees or a uniform horizontal datum are a burden, we’ll be happy to work with you to convert your data.

### Resources

More detail on the Sub-Network definitions (Baseline, Well Type, Well Characteristics, and Well Purpose) is available on the NGWMN Portal at: <http://cida.usgs.gov/ngwmn/learnmore.jsp>

The full NGWMN Framework Document is available at:

[https://cida.usgs.gov/ngwmn/doc/ngwmn\\_framework\\_report\\_july2013.pdf](https://cida.usgs.gov/ngwmn/doc/ngwmn_framework_report_july2013.pdf)