**2016 Integrated Report (IR)**

**Call for Data: General Questions**

1. **I do not know what some of the abbreviations mean; where can I find translations of the acronyms?**

In the General Information file, there is an acronym worksheet – you should be able to find the definition of an acronym that is used in the data submission files and on the call for data website. If we missed something, please let us know by emailing Emilie Flemer at eflemer@utah.gov.

1. **I want to submit data, but it is past the closing date for the 2016 IR call for data. Can I still submit it?**

Because of the time and resources it takes to compile and review the quality of the data and information submitted to UDWQ for assessment purposes, we cannot accept data and information that submitted outside of the call for data time frame. However, please consider submitting that data in future calls for data for the Integrated Report (IR).

1. **I went to DWQ’s online database AWQMS and do not see the data I submitted – why?**

Currently, UDWQ does not store data that is submitted through an IR call for data in AWQMS. In future IR cycles UDWQ may recommend stakeholders submit IR requested data to EPA’s water quality database (WQX/STORET) or UDWQ’s water quality database (AWQMS). To help stakeholders prepare for that potential change in process, the data submission templates mimic the requirements for a WQX/STORET and/or AWQMS import.

1. **Why does DWQ not encourage submitting data that is older than 6 years?**

UDWQ prioritizes data that is collected from the most recent 6 years in an IR cycle (e.g., data that is collected from October 1, 2008 – September 31, 2014 for a 2016 IR Assessment) to better reflect UDWQ’s 6-year rotting basin schedule.

Data older than 6 years in an IR cycle may still be used in an assessment if it can be demonstrated that the samples are reflective of current conditions. If you want to submit older data, please provide a rationale (and supporting documents if necessary) to explain to UDWQ why this data should be used for an assessment decision given the absence of newer data.

You should also be aware that UDWQ may not use older data if the data does not overlap with a sampling location from another agency than the submitters and no newer data exists -- the sample site with the older data may not be used exclusively for a listing decision. Instead, the older data may be placed in a category to flag to UDWQ that this is a priority sample site to go back to and collect more information to confirm an assessment decision.

However, if there is newer data at the site (that was submitted from another agency or UDWQ), the older data will be merged with the newer data and used to support/ confirm and assessment decision.

1. **Why does DWQ not request data that is more current (e.g., for a 2016IR call for data, DWQ does not request data collected from October 1, 2014 to when the final 2016IR is released)?**

The IR program receives a lot of data from UDWQ and other agencies. After receiving the data UDWQ must compile, perform data quality checks, format all of the data from different sources, assess, review the assessments, and then generate the Report for public comment. For this to happen in a timely fashion, UDWQ must have a cutoff date. By not accepting data collected after October 1, 2014, this gives UDWQ and other stakeholders ~3 months to receive samples back from the Laboratories and compile QA information. The IR Program then has ~13months to do all of its QA and assessment tasks before putting the Report out for public comment and finalizing it for the April 1 deadline of even years.

1. **When I submitted data to DWQ during a previous call for data, my data received a lower grade level. I now have the missing information to support a higher grade level. What should I submit to DWQ during this call for data?**

Please re-submit your dataset with the additional supporting information as a complete data package for re-evaluation. Be clear to specify different file names for your dataset to distinguish them from previous submissions and ensure that all required documents are included.

1. **I have data I want to submit not on the Assessed Parameter list – can I still submit it?**

Yes, you can still submit it, but you should be aware that the IR program may not use it. The parameters listed in the Assessed Parameters file on the website reflect the characteristics that UDWQ has numeric criteria for and/or needs to fully assess a parameter (e.g., the additional information is need to calculate a correction factor, etc.).

1. **I have data collected a spill -- can I submit this data to be considered for the IR?**

Yes, you can submit the data, but you should know that UDWQ typically does not assess data that is not representative for normal conditions. This can include data from accidental spills or extreme flood events that lead to the diminishment of aquatic life uses. Though these “extreme” data points may not be representative of normal conditions, they are still important and useful – especially when developing our list of locations to do follow up monitoring on.