
NPDES Effluent Limit Data Elements Included in the ECHO Data Download

The Enforcement and Compliance History Online (ECHO) system provides a compendium of the effluent parametric limits that are identified in the NPDES permits issued to entities (municipal, federal, and commercial facilities) that discharge pollutants into the navigable waters of the United States. These limits identify what pollutants can be discharged and how much of each pollutant can be discharged as well as certain water conditions such as pH and dissolved oxygen content that must be maintained at the locations where the discharges occur. At EPA, the official source of NPDES limit data is stored in the Office of Enforcement Compliance Assurance, Integrated Compliance Information System (ICIS) where it is extracted by ECHO.

1.1 LIMIT FILE DESCRIPTION

The Limit download data file is comprised of limit information that was in effect starting from FY 2009 until the present day. In the zip file, `npdes_limits_fy2009plus.zip`, there is one CSV file named, `NPDES_LIMITS_FY2009PLUS.csv`. The zip file is updated each week, typically over the weekend.

The data contained in the download file is comprised of selected data columns from the following ICIS tables:

IDEA_ICIS	ICIS_LIMIT
IDEA_ICIS	ICIS_LIMIT_SET
IDEA_ICIS	ICIS_LIMIT_SET_SCHEDULE
IDEA_ICIS	ICIS_LIMIT_SET_STATUS
IDEA_ICIS	ICIS_LIMIT_VALUE
IDEA_ICIS	ICIS_PERMIT
IDEA_ICIS	ICIS_PERM_FEATURE

1.2 ICIS-NPDES DATA ELEMENTS

Element Name	Data Type	Length
NPDES DMR (NPDES_DMR_FYxxxx.csv)		
ACTIVITY_ID	NUMBER	22
EXTERNAL_PERMIT_NMBR	VARCHAR2	9
VERSION_NMBR	NUMBER	22
PERM_FEATURE_ID	NUMBER	22
PERM_FEATURE_NMBR	VARCHAR2	4
PERM_FEATURE_TYPE_CODE	VARCHAR2	3
LIMIT_SET_ID	NUMBER	22
LIMIT_SET_SCHEDULE_ID	NUMBER	22
LIMIT_ID	NUMBER	22
LIMIT_BEGIN_DATE	DATE	7
LIMIT_END_DATE	DATE	7
NMBR_OF_SUBMISSION	NUMBER	22
PARAMETER_CODE	VARCHAR2	5
PARAMETER_DESC	VARCHAR2	100
MONITORING_LOCATION_CODE	VARCHAR2	3
STAY_TYPE_CODE	VARCHAR2	1
LIMIT_VALUE_ID	NUMBER	22
LIMIT_VALUE_TYPE_CODE	VARCHAR2	3
LIMIT_VALUE_NMBR	NUMBER	22
LIMIT_UNIT_CODE	VARCHAR2	2
LIMIT_UNIT_DESC	VARCHAR2	13
STANDARD_UNIT_CODE	VARCHAR2	2
STANDARD_UNIT_DESC	VARCHAR2	13
LIMIT_VALUE_STANDARD_UNITS	NUMBER	22
STATISTICAL_BASE_CODE	VARCHAR2	3
STATISTICAL_BASE_TYPE_CODE	VARCHAR2	3
LIMIT_VALUE_QUALIFIER_CODE	VARCHAR2	3
STAY_VALUE_NMBR	NUMBER	22

2. NPDES Limit Data Element Definitions

The following is a list of the data elements and ICIS-derived elements that appear in the IDEA NPDES DMR download.

ACTIVITY_ID - The unique identifier for an activity performed at or related to a particular site.

EXTERNAL_PERMIT_NMBR - The unique identifier for a Permit.

VERSION_NMBR - The version of the permit when a modification or reissuance is applied to the permit.

PERM_FEATURE_ID - The unique system identifier of a permitted feature.

PERM_FEATURE_NMBR - The identifier assigned for each location at which permit conditions are being applied.

PERM_FEATURE_TYPE_CODE - The code indicating the type of permitted feature (e.g., External Outfall, Sum).

LIMIT_SET_ID - The system-generated unique identifier for a limit set.

LIMIT_SET_SCHEDULE_ID - The system-generated unique identifier of the Limit Set Schedule.

LIMIT_ID - The unique identifier for a limit parameter record.

LIMIT_BEGIN_DATE - The date on which a limit starts being in effect for a particular parameter in a limit set.

LIMIT_END_DATE - The date on which a limit stops being in effect for a particular parameter in a limit set.

NMBR_OF_SUBMISSION - The attribute stores the number of months for submitting the DMRs for the limit set (e.g., monthly = 1, semi-annually = 6, quarterly = 3); this data element will be blank for Unscheduled Limit Sets.

PARAMETER_CODE - The unique code identifying the parameter being limited and/or monitored.

PARAMETER_DESC - The description of the parameter.

MONITORING_LOCATION_CODE - The code that the monitoring location at which the monitoring requirement (and effluent limit if limited) applies. One parameter may have several monitoring location requirements pertaining to the same permitted feature.

STAY_TYPE_CODE - The unique identifier of the type of stay applied to a limit (e.g., X, Y, Z), which indicates whether the limits do not appear on the DMR at all, are treated as monitor only, or have a stay value in effect during the period of the stay.

LIMIT_VALUE_ID - The system-generated unique identifier for the Limit Value.

LIMIT_VALUE_TYPE_CODE -

LIMIT_VALUE_NMBR - The actual limit value number from the Permit or Enforcement Action Final Order.

LIMIT_UNIT_CODE - The code representing the unit of measure applicable to quantity or concentration limits and measurements as entered by the user.

LIMIT_UNIT_DESC - The short description of the unit of measure applicable to limit or DMR values.

STANDARD_UNIT_CODE - The code representing the standard unit of measure applicable to quantity or concentration limits and measurements as entered by the user.

STANDARD_UNIT_DESC - The short description of the standard unit of measure applicable to limit or DMR values.

LIMIT_VALUE_STANDARD_UNITS - The limit value expressed in standard units as calculated by the system.

STATISTICAL_BASE_CODE - The code representing the unit of measure applicable to the limit and DMR values entered by the user (e.g., 30-day average, daily maximum) CHECK DATA STANDARD.

STATISTICAL_BASE_TYPE_CODE - The code indicating whether the statistical base code is a minimum, average, or maximum for purposes of calculating compliance against the limit value.

LIMIT_VALUE_QUALIFIER_CODE - The unique code identifying the limit value operator (e.g., <, T, >, E, =).

STAY_VALUE_NMBR - The numeric limit value imposed during the period of the stay for the limit; if entered, during the stay period, the system will use this limit value for calculating compliance rather than the actual limit value.