



January 17, 2018

Re: Request for Water Quality Data for the Upper and Lower Colorado River Basins for Triennial Review

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Water Quality Control Division (division) is asking for your assistance in preparation for the triennial review of the water quality classifications and standards for the Upper and Lower Colorado River Basins. This effort requires compilation of recent water quality parameters including biological, physical, chemical, and other related data that have been collected throughout the Upper and Lower Colorado River basins. This compilation of data from streams, lakes, and reservoirs will be assessed by the division to develop recommendations to the Water Quality Control Commission (Commission) for maintaining or modifying water quality classifications and standards for the Upper and Lower Colorado basins.

The schedule for the review of commission's Regulations No. 33 and 37, Upper and Lower Colorado River Basins and subsequent rulemaking is as follows:

Regulations No. 33 and 37 Deadline to Submit Data to Division	April 15, 2018
Regulations No. 33 and 37 Issues Formulation Hearing	November 2018*
Regulations No. 33 and 37 Rulemaking Notice and Proposal	February, 2019*
Regulations No. 33 and 37 Rulemaking Hearing	June, 2019*

*dates are approximate

The division collected data in the Upper and Lower Colorado River Basins in 2016 and 2017 and recognizes that other entities may have water quality data that would be appropriate to include in the data analyses for the Upper and Lower Colorado basin review process. A list of the division's monitoring sites is available upon request. In addition, there are numerous stream segments the division was unable to sample and data collected by other entities may fill these data gaps.

The division is requesting water quality data from any sampling events conducted in the Upper and Lower Colorado River basins during the last five years (10/1/2012-12/31/2017). There is no need to resubmit data previously submitted to the Environmental Data Unit (EDU). Entities that are required to submit data to the division to fulfil other requirements should resubmit the data to EDU to ensure it is used in this assessment process. The data will assist in determining ambient water quality for the Upper and Lower Colorado River basins during this time period. Please note that the data call for the Upper and Lower Colorado River basins are separate from the data submittal required for the Nutrients Management Control Regulation (Regulation No.85).

The data should follow the credible evidence guidelines used in the compilation of previous 303(d) lists (see below). The guidelines are:

1. Information to describe the methods used for sample collection and field or laboratory analysis.



2. Information and data to indicate that the measurement represents existing conditions.
3. For physical and biological assessments, confirmation that data was collected by an observer who has training and experience in performing such observations, and that recorded observations adequately account for seasonal variation.

Any of the following parameters are of particular interest to the division, although any other parameters or analytical techniques may be helpful and are welcomed:

Parameters of Interest	
• Flow Rate	• Total Ammonia (NH ₃ and NH ₄) as N
• pH	• Hardness (total as CaCO ₃)
• Water Temperature (deg C)	• Total Phosphorous
• Dissolved Oxygen	• Sulfate as SO ₄
• Specific Conductivity	• Nitrite as N
• Arsenic (dissolved and total recoverable)	• Nitrate as N
• Cadmium (dissolved)	• Total Nitrogen as N
• Chromium III and VI	• Kjeldahl Nitrogen as N
• Copper (dissolved)	• <i>E. Coli</i> (per 100 ml)
• Iron (dissolved and total recoverable)	• Aquatic life data (fish, macroinvertebrates, algae, macrophytes)
• Lead (dissolved)	• Periphyton data
• Manganese (dissolved)	• Aquatic life habitat data
• Mercury (total)	• Fish tissue residue data
• Nickel (dissolved)	• Organic chemicals and/or pesticides
• Selenium (dissolved)	• Sediment data
• Silver (dissolved)	
• Zinc (dissolved)	
• Uranium (dissolved and total)	
Additional Parameters of Interest for Lakes & Reservoirs	
• Depth profiles including pH, temperature and dissolved oxygen	
• Secchi depth	• Chlorophyll <i>a</i>

In general, the division assesses data from the most recent five year period of record. Older data may be used on a case-by-case basis if the division believes conditions have not changed and this older data is still representative or if the older data are used with the newer data to determine trends. The water quality data should be provided in electronic format and include the following:

- Location of each sample station in latitude and longitude with the associated reference datum, e.g., North American Datum 1983, etc.;
- Waterbody name and sampling location description with the date the sample was taken;
- Parameter or condition measured and the value;
- Unit of measurement;
- For non-detect or non-quantifiable data, the less than value associated with the method detection limits (MDL) or reporting limits (RL) (i.e., LQL, LRL, PQL, etc.);
- Method used to measure the pollutant;
- Name and contact information of the party submitting the data.

An example of the acceptable data formats is available on the division's web page under the heading *River, Lake, and Stream Data (Data submittal forms)*

(<https://www.colorado.gov/cdphe/rivers-lakes-and-streams-data>). An agency contact person and telephone number should also be submitted. **Data must be submitted to cdphe_wqcd_surfacewaterdata@state.co.us with “2018 Regulation 33 and 37 Data” in the subject line of the email.** Please email this same address for instructions on how to use google drive if your file size is too large to send by email. Data must be received by **April 15, 2018**. Data received after this date will not be reviewed and incorporated into the division’s proposals for Regulations No. 33 and 37 rulemaking hearings in 2019. All information collected by the division will be available for public review after July 1.

The division is also working with the Colorado Data Sharing Network (CDSN) on this data call for the Upper and Lower Colorado River basins (Regulations No. 33 and 37). If you are working with CDSN on the management of your data, or would like to start using CDSN, please submit your data through CDSN by going to: http://www.coloradowaterdata.org/datacalls_cdsn.html.

There is no reason to submit your data to both the division and the CDSN. An added benefit of using the CDSN is that your data will be available, along with all other participating entities’ data, for other uses including the CDSN mapping and analytical tools. Please notify the division by March 1, 2018 if you are going to use the CDSN. In that notification, please include the list of sites and the period of record of the data submitted. This will help to ensure that the division has received all of the data. Entities using the CDSN should start working with them as soon as possible, but no later than February 5, 2018.

For more information or if you have any questions, please email cdphe_wqcd_surfacewaterdata@state.co.us or call Sarah Wheeler at 303-692-3436 or Arne Sjodin at 303-692-3522 of the Environmental Data Unit.

The division uses an email distribution list from the Commission’s Office. Please contact the commission’s office at <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/op/wqcc/> or 303-692-3463 if you would like to be removed, or know of any individuals or organizations that should be added.

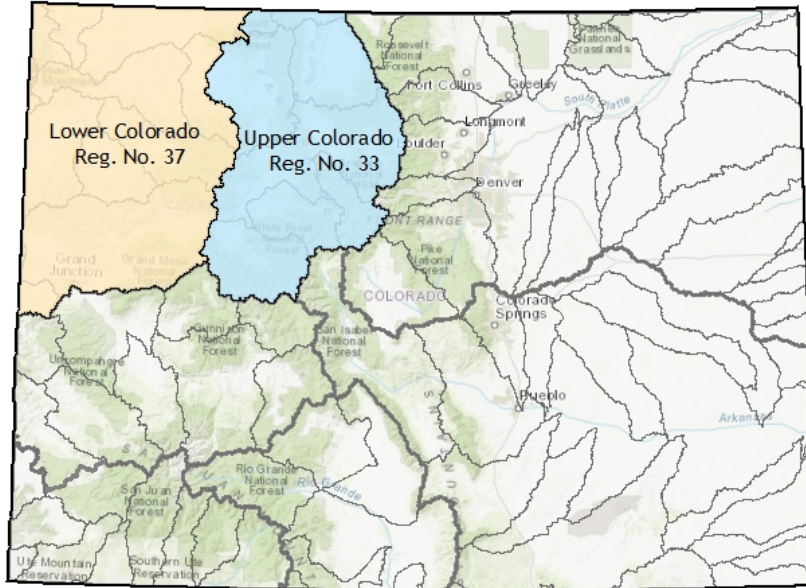
Sincerely,



Sarah Wheeler
Environmental Data Unit Manager
Water Quality Control Division



Map and HUCs of the Region Included in the WQCD 2018 Data Call



Basin	Hydrologic Unit Code
Blue	14010002
Colorado Headwaters	14010001
Colorado Headwaters-Plateau	14010005
Eagle	14010003
Little Snake	14050003
Lower Green-Diamond	14060001
Lower White	14050007
Lower Yampa	14050002
North Platte Headwaters	10180001
Piceance-Yellow	14050006
Roaring Fork	14010004
Upper Green-Flaming Gorge Reservoir	14040106
Upper North Platte	10180002
Upper White	14050005
Upper Yampa	14050001
Vermilion	14040109
Westwater Canyon	14030001