

EIM Help - Naming EIM Monitoring Locations

Version 2.0

March 2016

What is an EIM Location?

An EIM Location represents a **discrete geographic point on the earth's surface** where environmental data were collected. Data collected above or below this point are also represented by the same EIM Location.

Things to note before you start

Consistent naming convention

Use a consistent naming convention for Locations across your site or area. For example, you can incorporate your EIM Study ID or Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP) Number into your Location IDs to make them unique in EIM ([Example 1](#)). For wells, you can use the unique State of Washington Well Tag ID ([Example 7](#)).

In the following scenarios, create only ONE EIM LOCATION!

Same geographic point, different EIM Studies

Different EIM Studies can share the same EIM Location. Always check to see if a Location is already in EIM before submitting a new one. Use [EIM Map Search](#) to do this. If you think your Location is a match for one already in EIM, make sure the metadata accurately represent your Location. This is especially true for the Coordinate, Location Description, Horizontal Coordinates Represent, and well-related fields. See "[More on Study-Specific Location ID](#)" below to see how to fill out your Result Template to link your data to an existing EIM Location.

Same geographic point, different monitoring depths

Each EIM Location represents a point on the earth's surface. All monitoring done above or below that point belongs to that same EIM Location. Examples include water columns, test pits, sediment cores, soil borings, and sediment dredging sites. Do not create separate EIM Locations to represent different monitoring depths at the same Location ([Example 4](#)). Instead, denote monitoring depths in the Field Collection Upper and Lower Depth fields of your Result Template. See [EIM Help – Entering Field Collection Depth or Height](#) for additional information.

Same geographic point, different monitoring events

In your Study, do not create separate EIM Locations for individual monitoring events at the same Location ([Example 5](#)). Instead, create one EIM Location and use the Field Collection Date and Time fields in your Result Template to denote individual monitoring dates and times.

How do I name my Locations in EIM?

Give each of your monitoring locations the following identifiers and descriptors:

1. Location ID

Definition	ID to identify a monitoring location in EIM
Uniqueness	Must be unique to EIM No two monitoring locations in EIM can have the same Location ID (Example 1).
Max length	15 characters
Where in EIM?	Location Template (column A) Result Template (column B)
Example	VCNW5647-MW4

2. Location Name

Definition	Short, descriptive name to identify a monitoring location in EIM
Uniqueness	Must be unique to EIM No two monitoring locations in EIM can have the same Location Name (Example 2).
Max length	40 characters
Where in EIM?	Location Template (column B)
Example	GasNGo Station No. 34586, MW4
Other	Must correlate to the corresponding Location ID

3. Study-Specific Location ID

Definition	What your monitoring location is called in your own EIM Study. Often your site ID.
Uniqueness	Must be unique to your Study. NOT unique to EIM. (Example 3)
Max length	40 characters (8 characters or fewer display better on GIS map labels)
Where in EIM?	Result Template (column C)
Example	MW4
Other	See " More on Study-Specific Location ID "

4. Location Description

Definition	More detailed information about where to find your Location, such as how to access the site, proximity to landmarks, etc.
Uniqueness	Unique to your Study Do not use same description for each monitoring location at your site.
Max length	2000 characters
Where in EIM?	Location Template (column D)
Example	Northeast corner of property, in back of storage shed

More on Study-Specific Location ID

Why does EIM have this ID?

We often get asked why EIM requires Study-Specific Location ID. Two reasons:

1. It allows you to assign a label your EIM Location that matches your site ID, like MW4. This is important for tying EIM data to project reports and maps.
2. It allows two or more EIM Studies to share the same EIM Location, thus preventing the creation of duplicate Locations.

Pairing your Location and Study-Specific Location IDs

Once you have established a Location ID/Study-Specific Location ID pairing (by submitting data in the Results Template), you must continue to use that same pairing for all future data submittals to your Study. This is one of the primary submittal errors we encounter.

If you are unsure what Location ID/Study-Specific Location ID pairings were previously used in your Study, download your Results data from EIM Search to view them, or contact your Data Coordinator.

How do I use this ID to link my data to an existing EIM Location?

Imagine that a Location, a well in this case, is already in EIM with Location ID “VCNW5647-MW4.” The user who originally submitted the Location assigned that Location ID. Their site ID was MW4, which they used for their EIM Study-Specific Location ID. You also monitored the well at this same Location, but your site ID is MW12. The Study-Specific Location ID allows you to call the existing EIM Location “MW12” in your own Study.

You don’t need to add a new Location to EIM. You can link your data to the existing Location AND assign your own site ID.

How do you do this? When you fill out your Result Template (below), enter your Study ID, the existing EIM Location ID, and your site ID as the Study-Specific Location ID. Once your data is loaded into EIM, presto! Your data is linked to the existing EIM Location, labeled with your own site ID!

EIM Result Template

Study ID (column A)	Location ID (column B)	Study-Specific Location ID (column C)	
VCNW5647	VCNW5647-MW4	MW4	Original Study and Location
VCSW7890	VCNW5647-MW4	MW12	Your Study and Location

Examples of Location naming conventions

1. Location ID

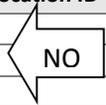
OK - Location IDs unique in EIM

Location IDs prefixed with EIM Study ID

Study ID	Location ID	Location Name	Study-Specific Location ID
VCNW5647	VCNW5647-MW4	VCNW5647 GasNGo 34586 Monitoring Well 4	MW4
VCNW5647	VCNW5647-MW5	VCNW5647 GasNGo 34586 Monitoring Well 5	MW5
VCNW5647	VCNW5647-MW6	VCNW5647 GasNGo 34586 Monitoring Well 6	MW6

NOT OK - Location IDs NOT unique in EIM

Study ID	Location ID	Location Name	Study-Specific Location ID
VCNW5647	MW4	VCNW5647 GasNGo 34586 Monitoring Well 4	MW4
VCNW5647	MW5	VCNW5647 GasNGo 34586 Monitoring Well 5	MW5
VCNW5647	MW6	VCNW5647 GasNGo 34586 Monitoring Well 6	MW6



2. Location Name

OK - Location Names unique in EIM

Study ID	Location ID	Location Name	Study-Specific Location ID
VCNW5647	VCNW5647-MW4	VCNW5647 GasNGo 34586 Monitoring Well 4	MW4
VCNW5647	VCNW5647-MW5	VCNW5647 GasNGo 34586 Monitoring Well 5	MW5
VCNW5647	VCNW5647-MW6	VCNW5647 GasNGo 34586 Monitoring Well 6	MW6

NOT OK - Location Names NOT unique in EIM

Study ID	Location ID	Location Name	Study-Specific Location ID
VCNW5647	VCNW5647-MW4	VCNW5647 GasNGo 34586 Monitoring Well	MW4
VCNW5647	VCNW5647-MW5	VCNW5647 GasNGo 34586 Monitoring Well	MW5
VCNW5647	VCNW5647-MW6	VCNW5647 GasNGo 34586 Monitoring Well	MW6



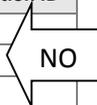
3. Study-Specific Location ID

OK - Study-Specific Location IDs unique for each Location in Study

Study ID	Location ID	Location Name	Study-Specific Location ID
VCNW5647	VCNW5647-MW4	VCNW5647 GasNGo 34586 Monitoring Well 4	MW4
VCNW5647	VCNW5647-MW5	VCNW5647 GasNGo 34586 Monitoring Well 5	MW5
VCNW5647	VCNW5647-MW6	VCNW5647 GasNGo 34586 Monitoring Well 6	MW6

NOT OK - Study-Specific Location IDs NOT unique for each Location in Study

Study ID	Location ID	Location Name	Study-Specific Location ID
VCNW5647	VCNW5647-MW4	VCNW5647 GasNGo 34586 Monitoring Well 4	MW
VCNW5647	VCNW5647-MW5	VCNW5647 GasNGo 34586 Monitoring Well 5	MW
VCNW5647	VCNW5647-MW6	VCNW5647 GasNGo 34586 Monitoring Well 6	MW



NOT OK - One Location ID cannot have more than one Study-Specific Location ID in a Study

This happens most often with subsequent data submittals. Be sure and check the Location ID/Study-Specific Location ID pairings you used in previous submittals.

Study ID	Location ID	Location Name	Study-Specific Location ID
VCNW5647	VCNW5647-MW4	VCNW5647 GasNGo 34586 Monitoring Well 4	MW4
VCNW5647	VCNW5647-MW4	VCNW5647 GasNGo 34586 Monitoring Well 4	MW-4
VCNW5647	VCNW5647-MW4	VCNW5647 GasNGo 34586 Monitoring Well 4	Well-4



4. Sampling depths – NO!

NOT OK - Sample depth specified in location information

Samples taken at different depths (like 5, 10, and 15 feet) should be denoted in the Results Spreadsheet Field Collection Reference Point and Field Collection Upper and Lower Depth columns.

Study ID	Location ID	Location Name	Study-Specific Location ID
VCNW5647	VCNW5647-MW4-5	VCNW5647 GasNGo 34586 Monitoring Well 4-5 ft	MW4-5
VCNW5647	VCNW5647-MW4-10	VCNW5647 GasNGo 34586 Monitoring Well 4-10 ft	MW4-10
VCNW5647	VCNW5647-MW4-15	VCNW5647 GasNGo 34586 Monitoring Well 4-15 ft	MW4-15



5. Sampling events – NO!

NOT OK - Sampling event date specified in location information

Study ID	Location ID	Location Name	Study-Specific Location ID
VCNW5647	VCNW5647-MW4-6	VCNW5647 GasNGo 34586 Monitoring Well 4 6/12	MW4-6/12
VCNW5647	VCNW5647-MW4-9	VCNW5647 GasNGo 34586 Monitoring Well 4 9/12	MW4-9/12
VCNW5647	VCNW5647-MW4-12	VCNW5647 GasNGo 34586 Monitoring Well 4 12/12	MW4-12/12



6. Same Location ID, Location Name, and Study-Specific Location ID

OK - All three are the same - but all unique in the Study and in EIM

Study ID	Location ID	Location Name	Study-Specific Location ID
VCNW5647	VCNW5647-MW4	VCNW5647-MW4	VCNW5647-MW4
VCNW5647	VCNW5647-MW5	VCNW5647-MW5	VCNW5647-MW5
VCNW5647	VCNW5647-MW6	VCNW5647-MW6	VCNW5647-MW6

7. Wells

OK - Same Location ID, Location Name, Study-Specific Location ID – but all unique in EIM and/or Study

Using State of Washington Unique Well Tag IDs

Study ID	Location ID	Location Name	Study-Specific Location ID
VCNW5647	AAB124	AAB124	AAB124
VCNW5647	AAB125	AAB125	AAB125
VCNW5647	AAB126	AAB126	AAB126

OK - Location ID and Location Name the same, but unique in EIM

Using Well Tag IDs and your site ID (as Study-Specific Location ID)

Study ID	Location ID	Location Name	Study-Specific Location ID
VCNW5647	AAB124	AAB124	MW4
VCNW5647	AAB125	AAB125	MW5
VCNW5647	AAB126	AAB126	MW6

Document revision history

Revision Date	Revision No.	Summary of Changes	Reviser(s)
10/2/07	1.0	Original Document	CN, KC
11/6/09	1.1	Updated examples	CN, KC
6/13/11	1.2	Nomenclature change - dropped 'User' from Study ID and Location ID	CN
8/1/13	1.3	Changed Study Location Name to Study-Specific Location ID to reflect data model change	CN
12/6/13	1.4	Added more background content and information for each field type.	KC, CN
3/11/16	2.0	Restructured, added clarification on relationships between Study-Specific Location IDs and Location IDs.	JK, CN