

EIM Help – Entering Observations

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An Observation is an activity conducted in the field without any instruments and that doesn't have a result value associated with it. A common use is to show that a sample or measurement was attempted, but conditions prohibited result values from being obtained. Observations are recorded as descriptive statements in the Field Activity Comment and/or the Result Value Comment field. The Result Reported Value field must remain blank.

Note: If you were able to obtain a result value, it should be entered with a Field Activity Type of Measurement or Sample. You can still use the comment fields for comments. Please see the EIM Help Document "[Entering Comments](#)" for more information.

The YELLOW fields in the spreadsheets are required for Observations.

In addition, follow these guidelines when entering Observations:

- Field Activity Type (Column D): **Observation**
- Field Activity Comment (Column J): **Put Observation details here.** Describe why an observation was made and identify the target parameter(s) of monitoring, if applicable (2000 character limit).
 - Ex: "The stream contained no visible water within the streambed – unable to monitor for target parameters (flow, pH, nitrates, fecal coliform, and phosphorus)"
- Result Parameter Name (Column AR): **Observation** (no CAS number needed)
- Result Reported Value (Column AW): **Leave blank** – do NOT enter a zero
- Result Value Comment (Column BH): Same as the Field Activity Comment

Special Case – entering Observations for well water level measurement:

- Field Activity Type (Column D): **Observation**
- Field Activity Comment (Column J): **Put Observation details here** (2000 character limit)
 - Ex: "The well was dry"
- Result Parameter Name (Column AR): **Water level in well (unable to measure)**
- Result Reported Value (Column AJ): **Leave blank** – do NOT enter a zero
- Result Value Comment (Column BH): Same as the Field Activity Comment
- Result Data Qualifier (Column BC): Enter a water level data qualifier code, if applicable

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| WLD | Site was dry (no water level is recorded) | WLO | An obstruction was encountered in the well |
| WLF | Site was flowing, head could not be measured | WLP | Site was being pumped |
| WLI | Injector site (recharge water being injected) | WLV | Foreign substance was present on the water |
| WLN | Measurement was discontinued | WLW | Well was destroyed |