

EIM Help – Spring and Seep Data

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What are Springs and Seeps?

A **spring** is where groundwater discharges to land surface or to a surface water body at a well-defined point or points. Springs range in volume from small, intermittent trickles to millions of gallons per day, depending on the groundwater source and its hydraulic head.

Seeps differ from springs by not having a well-defined point or points of discharge and usually have very low flow. Seeps are common along the banks of rivers and in marine shoreline intertidal zones, where they are often exposed during low tide. Seep sampling is sometimes conducted for source tracking from septic systems or cleanup sites.

For the purposes of EIM, springs and seeps are considered equivalent and are managed the same way.

How Do I Know if I Sampled a Spring/Seep or Surface Water?

If you sampled at or very near the point of groundwater discharge, the Sample Source is characterized as a *spring/seep*. If you sampled well away from the point of discharge, the Sample Source is *fresh/surface water* - or in marine intertidal environments, it might be *brackish water* or *salt/marine water*.

Your intent is also important. For example, did you intend to sample a spring or seep, or did you intend to sample the headwaters of a stream? This should be reflected in the Sample Source.

How to Enter Spring/Seep Data into EIM

Use this document as a supplement to the Locations and Results Submittal Template Help documents in the [Submittal Guidelines zip file](#), which contain all the requirements for submitting data to EIM.

Location Template

Enter the following fields per below in addition to the general requirements in the Locations Submittal Template help document:

- **Location Setting** (column C): Location Settings of “Land” and “Intertidal” are the most common. It depends where your spring or seep was located. See the Location Submittal Template help document for more valid values.
- **Location Description** (Column D): Describe your sampling location; especially how close you sampled to the point of discharge.

Result Template

Enter the following field per below in addition to the general requirements in the Results Submittal Template help document:

- **Sample Source** (column Y): Enter “Spring/Seep”

In marine intertidal environments, salinity testing is commonly conducted to determine if there is any mixing with salt/marine water. If you have salinity results, submit them with the rest of your data.

Revision History

Revision Date	Revision No.	Summary of Changes	Reviser(s)
11/3/15	1.0	Original Document	KC, CN