

Name of Project: National Water Information System (NWIS)
Bureau: US Geological Survey, Department of the Interior
Privacy Impact Assessment

A. CONTACT INFORMATION:

- 5. Bureau/Office Privacy Act Officer:**
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B. SYSTEM APPLICATION/GENERAL INFORMATION:

1) Does this system contain any information about individuals?

Yes - Site owner's name, address, and phone numbers may be entered in the National Water Information System (NWIS). Also, fields for a contact name, address, and phone numbers are available in NWIS. None of these entries are mandatory fields and they may not be populated.

a. Is this information identifiable to the individual¹?

(If there is **NO** information collected, maintained, or used that is identifiable to the individual in the system, the remainder of the Privacy Impact Assessment does not have to be completed).

Yes

b. Is the information about individual members of the public?

(If YES, a PIA must be submitted with the OMB Exhibit 300, and with the IT Security C&A documentation).

Yes

c. Is the information about employees? (If yes and there is no information about members of the public, the PIA is required for the DOI IT Security C&A process, but is not required to be submitted with the OMB Exhibit 300 documentation).

No

2) What is the purpose of the system/application?

NWIS is the repository of hydrologic data collected as part of cooperative hydrologic studies nationwide for the Water Resources Discipline of the USGS.

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) investigates the occurrence, quantity, quality, distribution, and movement of the surface and underground waters that constitute the Nation's water resources. The USGS is the principal Federal water-data agency that collects and disseminates the data being used by State and local governments, public and private utilities, and other Federal agencies to develop and manage our water resources. USGS personnel in all 50 States,

¹ "Identifiable Form" - According to the OMB Memo M-03-22, this means information in an IT system or online collection: (i) that directly identifies an individual (e.g., name, address, social security number or other identifying number or code, telephone number, email address, etc.) or (ii) by which an agency intends to identify specific individuals in conjunction with other data elements, i.e., indirect identification. (These data elements may include a combination of gender, race, birth date, geographic indicator, and other descriptors).

plus Puerto Rico and Guam collect data. These hydrologic data are used not only for determining the adequacy of water supplies, but also for implementing flood-warning systems; designing dams, bridges, and flood control projects; allocating irrigation water; locating sources of pollution, and planning for energy development.

3) What legal authority authorizes the purchase or development of this system/application?

The US Congress provides financial support of NWIS through appropriations. USGS water data collection and analysis activities are also funded in cooperation with other federal, state and local governments. Although NWIS is not funded directly from these activities, NWIS is an essential component since the data are usually stored and managed in NWIS.

C. DATA in the SYSTEM:

1) What categories of individuals are covered in the system?

NWIS contains information about individuals or groups that own or have control of physical access to sites where USGS collects data. These sites can be wells, streams, lakes, reservoirs, facilities or locations where water is used.

2) What are the sources of the information in the system?

a. Is the source of the information from the individual or is it taken from another source? If not directly from the individual, then what other source?

Some information is from the individual directly, other information is provided by sources such as well drillers or local, State, or federal cooperating agencies.

b. What Federal agencies are providing data for use in the system?

Cooperating Federal agencies vary by District but may include agencies such as the Corps of Engineers, EPA, and National Weather Service.

c. What Tribal, State and local agencies are providing data for use in the system?

Cooperating agencies vary by District but may include water and water-well regulatory agencies such as State environmental protection offices, and water management districts.

d. From what other third party sources will data be collected?

Third Party sources for information vary by District but may include businesses involved in the construction of water infrastructure.

e. What information will be collected from the employee and the public?

The site owner or contacts name, the postal address and phone numbers where they can be reached is the type of information stored in NWIS. USGS field personnel typically use this information to obtain advanced approval to visit a site on private lands, or to request additional information about the site or activities, such as water withdrawal, conducted there.

D. ATTRIBUTES OF THE DATA:

- 1) Is the use of the data both relevant and necessary to the purpose for which the system is being designed?**

Yes

- 2) Will the system derive new data or create previously unavailable data about an individual through aggregation from the information collected, and how will this be maintained and filed?**

No

- 3) Will the new data be placed in the individual's record?**

Not applicable.

- 4) Can the system make determinations about employees/public that would not be possible without the new data?**

Not applicable.