


M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Technical Oversight Committee Representatives

FROM: David M. Struve, Division Director, Water Quality Analysis Division 

DATE: January 29, 2008

SUBJECT: Facts Concerning Data Loading into DBHYDRO

As a follow-up to the Technical Oversight Committee (TOC) meeting on December 18, 2007, the purpose of this memorandum is to respond to the question raised by one of the TOC representatives as to why the data in DBHYDRO is not contiguous over time. In other words, why is some data available for a given location and time when earlier data is not?

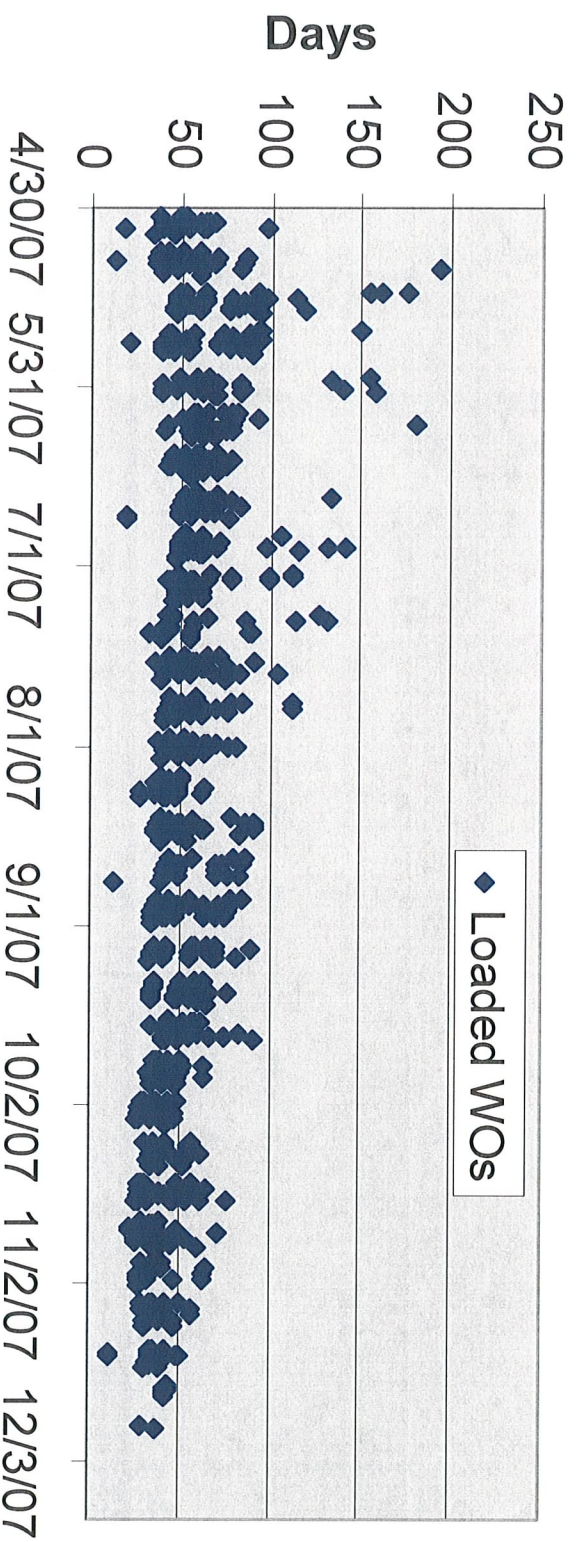
The answer to this question is relatively straightforward, as all work orders (sampling events) do not necessarily get loaded into DBHYDRO in the same order in which they were collected and received for analysis. They are processed in the order that the analyses are completed in the lab, data validation is concluded, and data is approved for loading. As a result of these factors, some work with an earlier date may still be in process while a later date is loaded.

The attached graph shows the actual time used to complete recent work orders, from sample collection to data loading into DBHYDRO. Data typically takes between 30 to 60 days before it is available in the database. [It should be noted that the longer times for loading from May through August 2007 were associated with the process of installing a new Laboratory Information Management System.] Some work orders may take longer if problems are encountered during lab analyses, data validation, or data loading into DBHYDRO.

The nature of the problems met by District staff can range from minor issues with documentation to more serious and time-consuming problems involving the actual quality of the data produced. Importantly, all issues related to a specific dataset must be resolved before loading it into the database. It is also important to note that because the loading process requires that all the samples in a given work order be loaded together, a problem with a single sample can result in a delay for that entire work order.

It is hoped that this clarifies any TOC concerns regarding data loading into DBHYDRO, and I would be glad to provide further explanation and address any additional questions at the next TOC meeting, if needed.

Average Load Time: Water Year 2008



Log in date