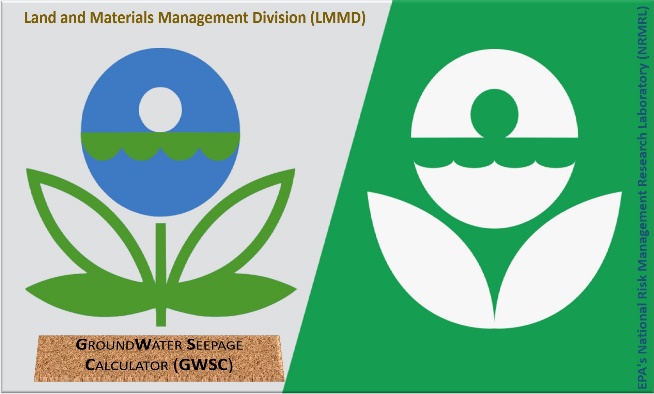
# GWSC Frequently Asked Questions (and Answers)

## This document was created to address Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) related to the GWSC support tool. Please contact Bob Lien, Project Lead, in NRMRL with other questions @ [lien.bob@epa.gov](mailto:lien.bob@epa.gov).



1. **Question:** What is GWSC?

**Answer:** GWSC is an on-line tool developed by the EPA Office of Research and Development (ORD). The tool is used for quantifying seepage flux using sediment temperatures.

### The ORD QA project tracking number for this effort is [G-LRPCD-0030041](https://qatrack.epa.gov/projects/show/2046/), entitled “*Tool for Quantifying Seepage Flux using Sediment Temperatures*.”

1. **Question:** Why did ORD develop GWSC?

**Answer:** GWSC enables ORD research staff use of an easy-to-use tool for calculating one-dimensional groundwater seepage direction and velocity using vertical temperature profile in sediments.

### The specific project objectives were to develop tools for performing the automated computation, with supplementary pop-up instructions embedded within both ***a spreadsheet tool*** and ***web-based application***.

1. **Question:** Why is GWSC important?

**Answer:** Every day, ORD scientists provide direct, timely and relevant expertise on challenging scientific problems in response to requests from EPA stakeholders, such as program and regional offices, other Federal agencies, and international organizations. Because these requests occur outside the formal research planning by the National Research Programs, the value and magnitude of this support can be overlooked.

GWSC enables ORD to show the full value of maintaining a professional staff of experts based on their contributions to stakeholders in response to requests for expertise. For these tools specifically:

### The ***spreadsheet*** and ***web-based*** tools will provide an automated means for the calculation of groundwater seepage under ambient conditions.

The tool can be used as a screening tool to determine groundwater sampling location; to evaluate spatial and temporal changes in the direction and magnitude of seepage fluxes; to assess changes in groundwater seepage caused by ground-water extraction and/or physical containment; to assess the contribution of groundwater seepage to contaminant exposure in the evaluation of risk management; and to evaluate the impacts of contaminated site remedies on the groundwater and surface water interaction. This information is an essential component in the characterization of natural systems as well as the determination of the effectiveness and optimization of remediation systems.

1. **Question:** What kinds of activities does the GWSC tools evaluate?

**Answer:** The tools can assist with:

* automated means for the calculation of groundwater seepage under ambient conditions;
* screening tool to determine groundwater sampling location;
* evaluate spatial and temporal changes in the direction and magnitude of seepage fluxes;
* assess changes in groundwater seepage caused by ground-water extraction and/or physical containment;
* assess the contribution of groundwater seepage to contaminant exposure in the evaluation of risk management;
* evaluate the impacts of contaminated site remedies on the groundwater and surface water interaction.

This information is an essential component in the characterization of natural systems as well as the determination of the effectiveness and optimization of remediation systems.

### More Information on program and technical support can be found at <https://groundwatercalculator.epa.gov/> under the ‘**User Documentation’** tab. User must have account and be logged into the GWSC.

1. **Question:** Who created the GWSC tools?

**Answer:** GWSC was created by NRMRL in the Land and Materials Management Division (LMMD).

### **GWSC Spreadsheet Tools contact Bob Lien @ (513) 569-**7443.

### **GWSC Web-**based Tool contact Daniel Young @ (513) 569-7451.

1. **Question:** How can I access GWSC?

**Answer:** GWSC can be accessed from the [ORD@WORK](https://intranet.ord.epa.gov/) intranet site using the GWSC icon there or via <https://groundwatercalculator.epa.gov/>

### The Spreadsheet tools are available via download from the web-based tool under the User Documentation drop down menu.

1. **Question:** How do I enter information into GWSC?

**Answer:** When you access the GWSC tool, click on ‘DASHBOARD’ to enter data.

1. **Question:** Once I make an entry to GWSC, can I change it later?

**Answer:** Yes, your entry can be changed by you during the same user session as the original entry was made.

### **Results can be exported to .**pdf or .xlxs files, via the dashboard wizard.

1. **Question:** I made an entry in GWSC but subsequently provided more technical support on the same request. Can I update the original entry?

**Answer:** Simply open the original entry and make the changes using the “edit” function.

1. **Question:** Am I the only one who can edit my entries in GWSC?

**Answer:** Yes.

1. **Question:** How do I extract information from GWSC? Can I export data to Excel or Adobe?

**Answer:** Yes, the information in GWSC can be exported to Excel or Adobe. A variety of reporting options are being considered but exporting to Excel or Adobe will be the primary method of extracting information. The GWSC User Guide provides specific instructions on how to export data.

1. **Question:** What is the intended use for data recorded in GWSC?

**Answer:** The information recorded in GWSC is intended for internal ORD use to enable ORD staff and managers to demonstrate the value added through program and technical support provided to stakeholders. Laboratory and Center managers can use the data to better understand the kind of support being provided. Scientists can use the data to assist in professional career development. OSP and the laboratory and Center PSCs can use the information to better that all ORD staff will enter information, as many track and route requests, identify scientists for in ORD do not perform these functions as a part their excellent service, and document success stories to illustrate how ORD is adding value of their jobs. to EPA.