**ESS-DIVE Reporting Format for Water-Soil-Sediment Chemistry Data v 1.0.0**

Scope: This reporting format is recommended for data from chemical concentration measurements of water, soil, and sediment samples.

Requirements: All samples for which chemical concentration data is being reported must also be recorded in a separate Sample Metadata file and the Sample\_Names must be identical for each corresponding sample. Data must be saved as csv files, even if the excel-based templates are used *(i.e.* all files must be converted to csv files prior to uploading to ESS-DIVE) - it is, however, permissible to add excel (or other proprietary software) files as long as the same data is also provided in csv format.

Compliance with this reporting format will automatically ensure compliance with upstream reporting formats (*i.e.* package, file, csv, and sample level metadata), unless there are additional types of data included in the same package (in which case the corresponding reporting formats should be followed for those data types). However, if the provided templates are modified (or partially/completely disregarded) it will be necessary to double-check compliance with any upstream reporting formats (as well as the specific requirements for this reporting format) to ensure your data and metadata files are adhering to the minimal requirements of each level.

## How to contribute

This reporting format is evolving and adapting to meet the needs of the community. Feedback and new contributions are welcome. If you would like to suggest a change, please submit a GitHub issue using one of the templates we provide. We recognize that, although our intent is to provide a reporting format that will enable data producers to gain wider spread recognition for their data and data users to gain more streamlined options for automated download and synthesis of datasets, the result is a reporting format that will not fully please anyone and that leaves a lot to be desired from everybody.

If you have any questions about this reporting format, you can also email ESS-DIVE support at ess-dive-support@lbl.gov.

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## Related References

## References

Our reporting format was loosely based on those used by the EPA and USGS through the Water Quality Portal (WQP), but were also inspired from other standards, best practices, and recommendations within the water quality, soil science, and geological survey communities. Most importantly the reporting format and templates were developed to fit with needs, recommendations, and advice from the DOE-BER-ESS community including both data producers and data users – a summary of the community member feedback and list of consulted members can be found here.