

CHAPTER X. AMBIENT WATER QUALITY NETWORK PROTOCOLS

Overview

The Division of Water and Waste Management's predecessor, the Water Resources Division of the Department of Natural Resources, began the Ambient Water Quality Monitoring Program in the 1960's. Many changes have occurred to the program since then, but the basic goal remains the same: to monitor water quality at a set of West Virginia's streams over long periods of time. Natural resource managers have divided the state into 32 watersheds. Each of these watersheds is viewed as a unit for managing various environmental programs. The Ambient Water Quality Network consists primarily of sites on the main stem streams of these watersheds, mostly focusing near the downstream ends of the watersheds. A listing of the Ambient Water Quality Network stations is as follows:

1. **BST-(0.15)** Tug Fork At Fort Gay
2. **OG-(2.8)** Guyandotte River At Huntington
3. **OG-(74.1)** Guyandotte River At Pecks Mill
4. **K-(31.7)** Kanawha River At Winfield
5. **K-(76.9)** Kanawha River At Chelyan
6. **KC-(11.6)** Coal River At Tornado
7. **KE-(4.3)** Elk River At Charleston
8. **KG-(8.3)** Gauley River At Beech Glen
9. **KN-(1.55)** New River At Gauley Bridge
10. **KN-(67.4)** New River At Hinton
11. **KN-(96.2)** New River at Glen Lyn
12. **KNG-(1.6)** Greenbrier River At Hinton
13. **LK-(28.9)** Little Kanawha River At Elizabeth
14. **LKH-(1.5)** Hughes River West Of Freeport
15. **M-(99.4)** Monongahela River At Star City
16. **M-1-(20.6)** Dunkard Creek East Of Pentress
17. **MT-(6.2)** Tygart Valley River At Colfax
18. **MW-(12.0)** West Fork River At Enterprise
19. **MC-(3.5)** Cheat River Below Lake Lynn, Pa
20. **MC-(30.0)** Cheat River At Albright
21. **OMI-(12.3)** Middle Island Creek At Arvilla
22. **O-2-(8.8)** Twelvepole Creek South Of Ceredo
23. **P-4-(2.2)** Opequon Creek East Of Bedington
24. **PC-(6.1)** Cacapon River South Of Great Cacapon
25. **PSB-(13.4)** South Branch Of Potomac River
26. **S-(0.9)** Shenandoah River At Harpers Ferry

The sites in the Network are currently visited every two months or six times per year. Sites (or nearby proxy sites) that are wadeable or partially wadeable during summer low flows are sampled for benthic macroinvertebrates and full habitat assessment once a year as a part of the Long Term Monitoring Stations program (*see Chapter I. INTRODUCTION TO WATERSHED ASSESSMENT BRANCH SAMPLING ACTIVITIES Sampling Programs of the Watershed Assessment Branch on page 1 for a description*).

Generally, one person will collect the samples and utilize commercial laboratories for analysis. The data are then entered into the Watershed Assessment Branch database, where they are made available for trend analysis, general water quality assessments, pollutant loading calculations, and other tasks necessary for various agencies to fulfill their commitments to environmental management.

In general, the Ambient Water Quality Monitoring Program utilizes the same sampling techniques other Watershed Assessment Branch programs. Specifically, the SOP sections that apply to this program are as follows:

Chapter II. INSTRUCTIONS FOR ASSESSING THE STREAM SITE (INCLUDING SETTING UP THE SITE, SITE DOCUMENTATION, AND GUIDELINES FOR COMPLETING THE STREAM ASSESSMENT FORMS) starting on page 6

Chapter III. WATER COLLECTION PROTOCOLS starting on page 95

Chapter IV. STREAM FLOW MEASUREMENT starting on page 136

Chapter V. BENTHIC MACROINVERTEBRATE COLLECTION PROTOCOLS starting on page 150

Chapter XII. Section A. Field Blanks and Duplicates starting on page 285

Since only a few people routinely sample at the Ambient Water Quality Network stations, the main purpose for the inclusion of this section in the SOP is to give any person in the Watershed Assessment Branch the ability to locate and take a sample from these stations should the need arise.

Section A. METHODS AND PROCEDURES

Brief descriptions about some of the specific sampling techniques and sample handling as they apply to the Ambient Water Quality Monitoring Program are provided below. *See Chapter III. Section B. Water Quality Sample Collection and Preservation starting on page 119 for more detailed information about these techniques.*

Part 1. Ambient Water Quality Network Water Parameters

Table 11. The current list of Ambient Water Quality Network Water Parameters, MDLs, Analysis Methods, and Holding Times

<u>Parameter</u>	<u>MDL or Instrument Accuracy*</u>	<u>EPA Method</u>	<u>Holding Time</u>
Acidity	5 mg/l	305.1	14 Days
Alkalinity	5 mg/l	310.1	14 Days
Aluminum, Dissolved	0.08 mg/l	202.1 / 200.7	6 Months
Aluminum, Total	0.08 mg/l	202.1 / 200.7	6 Months
Ammonia Nitrogen	0.10 mg/l	350.1	28 Days
Arsenic, Total	0.05 mg/l	200.9 / 206.2	6 Months
Barium	0.002 mg/l	200.7	6 Months
Boron	0.003 mg/l	200.7	6 Months
Cadmium, Dissolved	0.0003 mg/l	200.9	6 Months
Chloride	1 mg/l	325.2	28 Days
Copper, Dissolved	0.003 mg/l	200.9	6 Months
Fecal Coliform	N/A	SM9222D	24 Hours
Hardness	0.01 mg/l	SM2340B	6 Months
Iron, Dissolved	0.05 mg/l	236.1	6 Months
Iron, Total	0.05 mg/l	236.1	6 Months
Lead, Dissolved	0.0005 mg/l	200.9	6 Months
Manganese, Total	0.01 mg/l	243.1	6 Months
Mercury, Total	0.0001 mg/l	SM3112B	6 Months
Nickel, Dissolved	0.07 mg/l	200.9	6 Months
Nitrate + Nitrite	0.2 mg/l	353.2	28 Days
Phosphorus, Total	0.1 mg/l	365.1	28 Days
Selenium, Total	0.001 mg/l	200.8	6 Months
Sodium	0.5 mg/l	200.7	6 Months
Silver, Dissolved	0.0003 mg/l	272.2	6 Months
Sulfate	5 mg/l	375.2	28 Days
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen	1 mg/l	351.2	28 Days
Total Dissolved Solids	5 mg/l	SM2540C	7 Days
Total Suspended Solids	1 mg/l	160.2	7 Days
Zinc, Dissolved	0.03 mg/l	289.1	6 Months
Field Sp Conductivity	+/- 0.5% of range*	YSI	Instant
Field Dissolved Oxygen	+/- 0.2 mg/l*	YSI	Instant
Field pH	+/- 0.2 units*	YSI	Instant
Field Temperature	+/- 0.15° C*	YSI	Instant

Part 2. Water Sampling Techniques

Since the Ambient Water Quality Network stations vary in size from large wadeable streams to fully boatable rivers, different methods of water collection must be employed from site to site. Factors to consider when selecting a method are water depth, proximity to upstream tributaries that may not be fully mixed into the main channel, and safety.

Direct Dip/Grab Method

See Chapter III. Section B. Part 1. Procedures for Collecting Water Quality Samples Direct Dip/Grab Method starting on page 120 for more details.

The direct dip or grab method is the preferred method to obtain a sample as it eliminates the need for extra equipment that may introduce contamination into the sample and allows the multiprobe sonde direct contact with the water column in the same flow vector as the lab water. This method may be employed if:

1. *The stream is wadeable.* Generally, this is common at some of the sites, especially during the low flow summer months.
2. *The stream is boatable and you have access to a boat.* This is rarely employed as it is often difficult to control the boat so that you can obtain all of the samples in the same spot, especially when one is working solo. In addition, the Watershed Assessment Branch boats may not be available due to use or maintenance.
3. *Circumstances force you to sample from the bank.* This is the least preferred means of obtaining a sample as it may not characterize the main channel, especially if there is a tributary upstream that is not adequately mixing into the main channel water. You should only employ this method if you are sure that there are no such tributaries upstream. If there is a bridge nearby, it may be preferable to sample from the bridge using one of the methods discussed below.

Bridge Crane Method

This method will likely not allow the direct contact of the multiprobe sonde to the water column due to the shortness of the cord between the sonde and the display unit. There are some longer cables available that could potentially allow the sonde to reach the water column from a bridge, but they are often scarce and in use with other sampling efforts (e.g., Lake Sampling). In any case, it may be more comparable to keep all water measurements limited to the same sampling method (i.e., get lab water and sonde readings both from a direct grab or bridge method, but don't mix and match).

In the absence of the bridge crane, a simple rope with a latching hook can be used. However, this presents its own issues with safety and potential contamination as it is more difficult to control the rope, especially on a tall bridge.

When sampling at bridge sites, the use of specialized equipment is required.

Van Dorn Horizontal Sampler

The Van Dorn Horizontal Sampler (VDHS) is used to collect water samples, by being lowered from a bridge into a stream, via a bridge crane device. The bridge crane can be adjusted to allow compatibility with the height of the bridge railing/berm (*i.e.*, prevent the rope from touching the side of the bridge and potentially knocking contaminants into the sampling device or immediate sampling area).

1. Before sampling, rinse the VDHS with DI or distilled water.
2. From the selected bridge sampling location, securely attach the VDHS to the rope from the bridge crane winch. Secure the ends of the VDHS to the trigger mechanism.
3. Lower the VDHS over the bridge and allow the VDHS to be rinsed in the stream.
4. After thoroughly rinsing the VDHS, attach a messenger (sliding weight) to the rope, and drop, to the trigger, to close the ends of the VDHS.
5. Raise the VDHS and release a small amount of water from each valve.
6. Discard the first fill and repeat Steps 3 thru 5 gathering enough sample water to rinse collection bottles twice. Use the remaining water to gather physicochemical water quality parameters using a multiprobe sonde placed directly into the sampler or a large container.
7. Rinse each sampling container twice then fill.

Stainless Steel Bucket

In select sampling situations, the direct dip and VDHS techniques are not practical or applicable. Alternately a stainless steel bucket (SSB) may be used along with the bridge crane to retrieve water samples.

1. Before sampling, rinse the SSB with DI or distilled water.
2. From the bridge location, securely attach the SSB to the rope from the bridge crane winch and lower.
3. Allow the bucket's bottom to touch the stream surface, then gently tilt the bucket's mouth upstream, allowing at least one gallon of rinse water to enter the bucket.

4. Retrieve the bucket and thoroughly agitate the water inside, rinsing the inside of the bucket with stream water.
5. Repeat Steps 3 and 4 and gathering enough sample water to rinse collection bottles twice. Use the remaining water to gather physicochemical water quality parameters using a multiprobe sonde placed directly into the bucket. Extra care must be taken to prevent the SSB from heating up quickly in the summer months due to contact with hot concrete or steel (*i.e.* try to keep the bucket in the shade).
6. Lower the bucket again allowing it to fill with water. Raise the SSB. Fill sample bottles and cap quickly to avoid road contamination.

Fecal Coliform Bacteria Sampler

It is not possible to use a VDHS or SSB to collect a Fecal Coliform Bacteria sample because the sampling apparatus needs to be 100% sterile and clean. To get around this, one must lower the sterile fecal coliform bottle from the bridge directly into the water column using a special metal apparatus that holds the bottle securely and in the open position.

Bridge Sampling Safety

Taking a water sample from a bridge is an inherently dangerous activity. Hazards are abundant and change with time of day, season and local weather conditions. They include boats, jet skis, passing cars and trucks, bridge height, power lines, strong winds, ice, rain, unsteady footing, and pedestrians. Wearing a safety vest and PFD is highly recommended when sampling from any bridge location. Always be aware of your surroundings, and any potential hazards in the area. Avoiding falls from the bridge and contact with traffic must be the sampler's primary focus when taking this type of sample. Check for/be aware of anything below when on the bridge and anything above you when under it. Anything placed on the berm is subject to falling off the bridge and becoming a projectile, so avoid this if at all possible. Traffic cones should be used when parking on a bridge or when a sufficient walkway or emergency lane does not exist at the sampling site. Failure to consider potential hazardous situations while bridge sampling could lead to a serious injury of either the sampler(s) and/or passersby.

Part 3. Water Sample Preservation/Filtering & Handling

All water sample preservation/filtering and handling techniques are identical to those presented in **Chapter III. Section B. Part 2. Sample Preservation (Filtration, Fixation, & Holding) on page 121.**

Part 4. Measuring Stream Flow

Small Streams

Stream flow can be measured at some of the smaller Ambient Water Quality Network sites by hand held flow meter. Measurements should be made during low flow periods, typically in the summer months at the following sites:

O-2-(8.8) Twelvepole Creek
 LKH-(1.5) Hughes River
 OMI-(12.3) Middle Island Creek
 M-1-(20.6) Dunkard Creek

P-4-(2.2) Opequon Creek

PC-(6.1) Cacapon River

Flow measurements should be made whenever the water depth and velocity allow it and according to techniques described in ***Chapter IV. STREAM FLOW MEASUREMENT starting on page 136***. Be sure to wear a personal flotation device when measuring flow. Calculate the total discharge and record on the appropriate form (see ***Chapter II. Section B. Part 2. APPENDIX #1 - Stream Discharge (Flow) on page 78***).

Large Streams

Most of the larger Ambient streams have been purposefully stationed at or very close to a United States Geological Survey (USGS) gauging station. USGS maintains a website to access current and historical stream discharge and stream stage data from these stream gages. The web addresses for West Virginia daily stream gage data are:

<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/wv/nwis/current?type=dailystagedischarge>

<http://wv.usgs.gov/>

<http://waterwatch.usgs.gov/?m=real&r=wv>

See Figure 77 and Figure 78 below for examples of USGS website data displays.

Map of real-time streamflow compared to historical streamflow for the day of the year (West Virginia)
Google Maps version of this map

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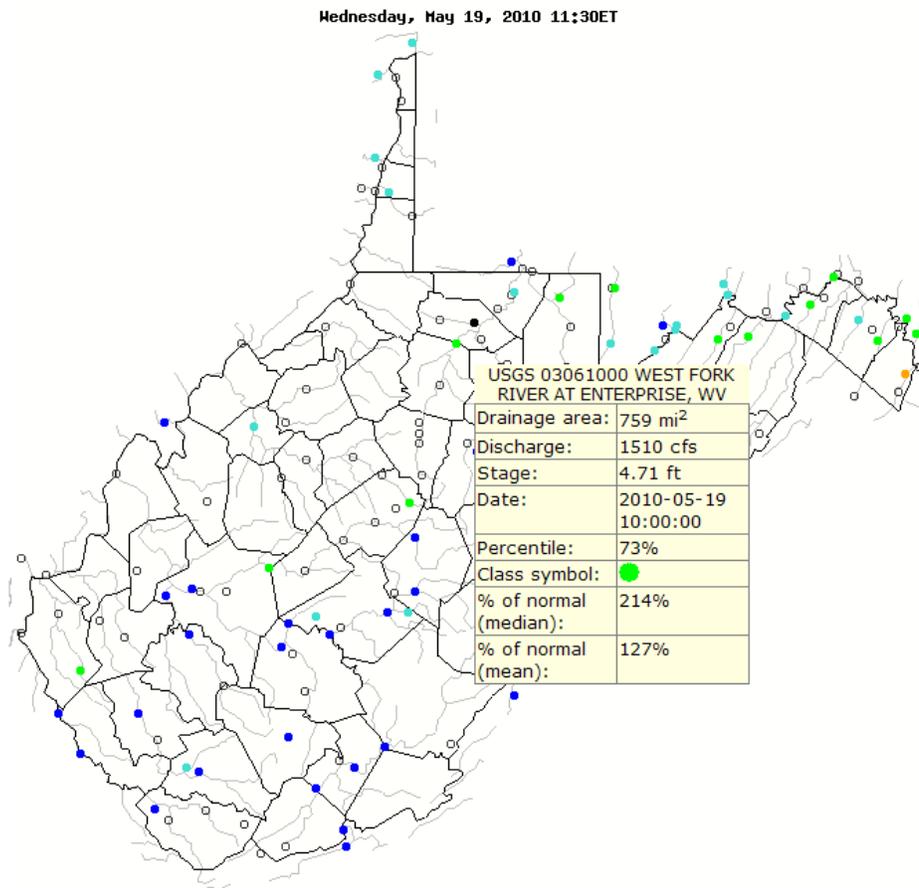


Figure 77. Example of USGS stream flow website (<http://waterwatch.usgs.gov/?m=real&r=wv>)

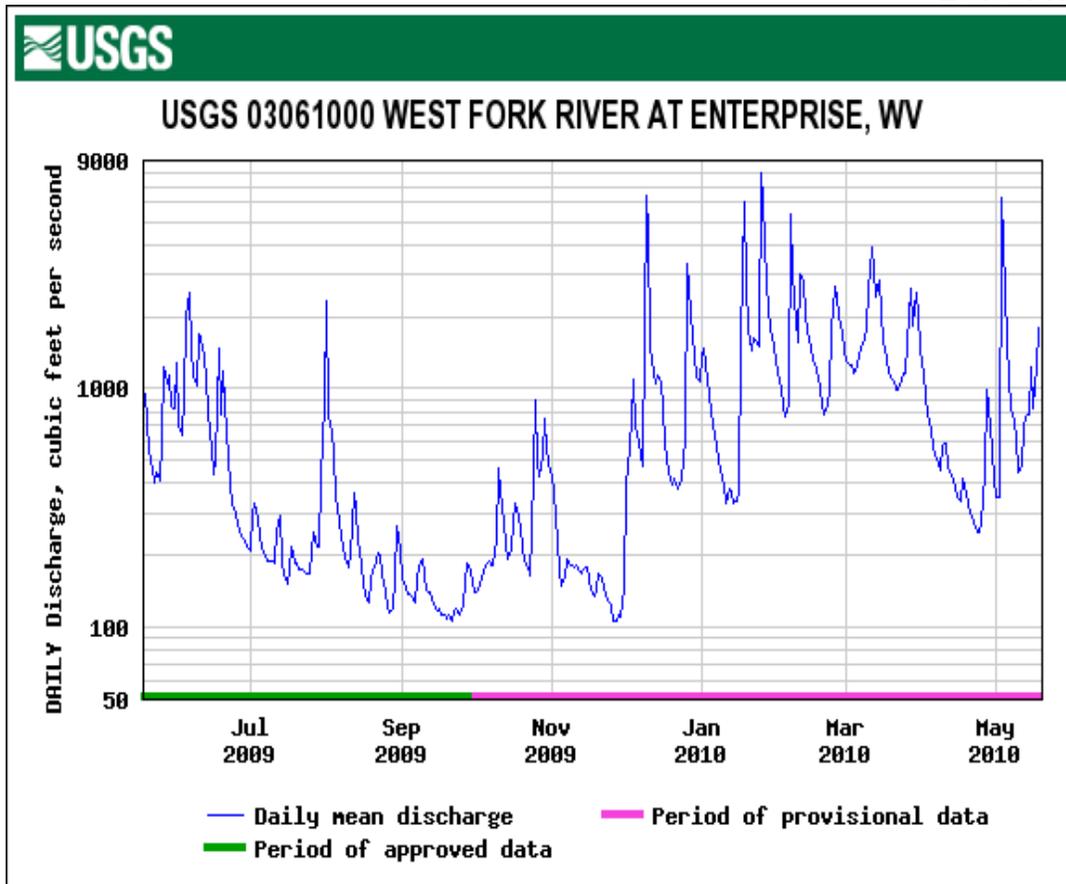


Figure 78. Example of USGS Stream Gage Output Graph

Refer to the specific station monitoring information (*see Section C. AMBIENT SAMPLING STATION DESCRIPTIONS below for the location and USGS ID number*). Once you have accessed a specific gage, you will need to use the real time and table options to view hourly gage data. Record the USGS gage number, discharge and/or stage readings, for the date and time sampled, onto the form (*see Chapter II. Section B. Part 2. APPENDIX #1 - Stream Discharge (Flow) on page 78*). Hourly data are available for up to 60 days, from the date a site is visited. Daily averages are available up to two years.

Section B. DATA REVIEW & HANDLING

When the Ambient Water Quality results are received from the laboratory, all of the sampling data is entered into the Watershed Assessment Branch database. During this process, all water quality results are compared to the analysis request form and field habitat forms to make sure all site and sampling information is correct and all requested analyses were performed. Minimum detection limits of each are checked for compliance with current water quality criteria. Next, the results are reviewed for violations of water quality criteria and notes of these are made for future reference. Any unusual numbers should be confirmed with the laboratory and data entry mistakes corrected.

Section C. AMBIENT SAMPLING STATION DESCRIPTIONS

BST-(0.15) Tug Fork River

USGS Quadrangle: Louisa, KY **Basin:** Tug Fork **County:** Wayne
Coordinates: Latitude – 38° 07' 1.12" N Longitude – 82° 35' 56.07" W



Figure 79. 2003 Aerial Photo of the BST-(0.15) Tug Fork Ambient Sample Site in Fort Gay, WV. Channel on Right is Tug Fork; Left is Levisa Fork. Note that there is a boat ramp into the Levisa Fork just north of the bridge (Middle Left Edge of Photo).

Directions to Sample Site

Sample site is located at Fort Gay in Wayne County on the WV Route 37 Bridge, which crosses into Louisa, KY. Parking for this site is located along KY Route 3, between the Tug Fork Bridge and the Levisa Fork Bridge, at the end of the bridge sidewalk.

Description of Sampling Point

Sample is collected midstream, from the bridge sidewalk, on the upstream side. Be aware of the permitted discharge on right descending bank.

Sampling Technique

This sample can only be obtained using the Bridge Crane Method. Wadeable benthic sample cannot be obtained.

Flow

Access USGS website for flow information – Gage site: Kermit, WV / USGS #03214500

Special Instructions

Wear orange safety vest and PFD!!!

O-2-(8.8) Twelvepole Creek

USGS Quadrangle: Burnaugh, KY **Basin:** Twelvepole **County:** Wayne
Coordinates: Latitude – 38° 21' 20.31" N Longitude – 82° 30' 30.56" W

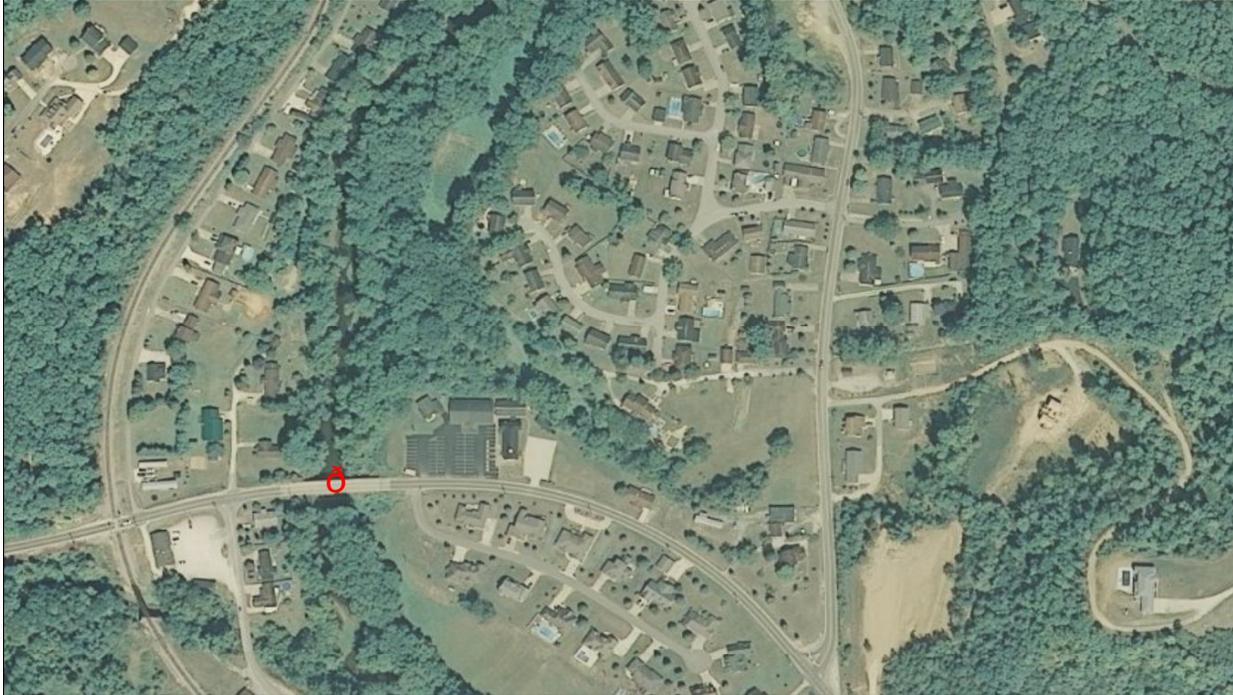


Figure 80. 2003 Aerial Photo of the O-2-(8.8) Twelvepole Creek Ambient Sample Site in Wayne Co., WV.

Directions to Sample Site

Sample site is located on WV Route 75 Bridge just west of the intersection with Wayne County Route 7. Refer to map for additional information. Parking is available at a church just east of the bridge.

Description of Sampling Point

During low flow a grab sample can be taken at riffle approximately 150 meters downstream of bridge. During high flow sample is collected midstream, from the bridge, on the downstream side.

Sampling Technique

Low Flow: Direct dip/grab method. Wadeable benthic sample can be obtained in summer low flows at same riffle as described above.

High Flow: Bridge Crane Method.

Flow

Low Flow: Measure at riffle downstream of bridge. The substrate of the creek is deep sandy silt.

High Flow: During normal to high flows access USGS website – Gage site: Wayne, WV / USGS #03207020

Special Instructions

Wear orange safety vest and PFD!!! Traffic cones recommended. Be careful of steep, slick banks when accessing the low flow sampling location.

OG-(2.8) Guyandotte River

USGS Quadrangle: Barboursville, WV **Basin:** Lower Guyandotte **County:** Cabell
Coordinates: Latitude – 38° 24' 48.4 N" Longitude – 82° 21' 39.83" W



Figure 81. 2003 Aerial Photo of the OG-(2.8) Guyandotte River Ambient Sample Site in Huntington, WV.

Directions to Sample Site

Sample site is located on the Cabell County Route 26 Bridge, which is accessed from I-64 via the Huntington 29th St. East exit (#15). Parking is available at the used auto sales business at the south east end of the bridge.

Description of Sampling Point

Sample is collected midstream, from the bridge sidewalk, on the upstream side.

Sampling Technique

This sample can only be obtained using the Bridge Crane Method. Wadeable benthic sample cannot be obtained.

Flow

Access USGS website for flow information – Gage site: Branchland, WV / USGS #03204000

Special Instructions

Wear orange safety vest and PFD!!!

OG-(74.1) Guyandotte River

USGS Quadrangle: Henlawson, WV **Basin:** Lower Guyandotte **County:** Logan
Coordinates: Latitude – 37° 55 35.48 N Longitude – 81° 58 54.0 W

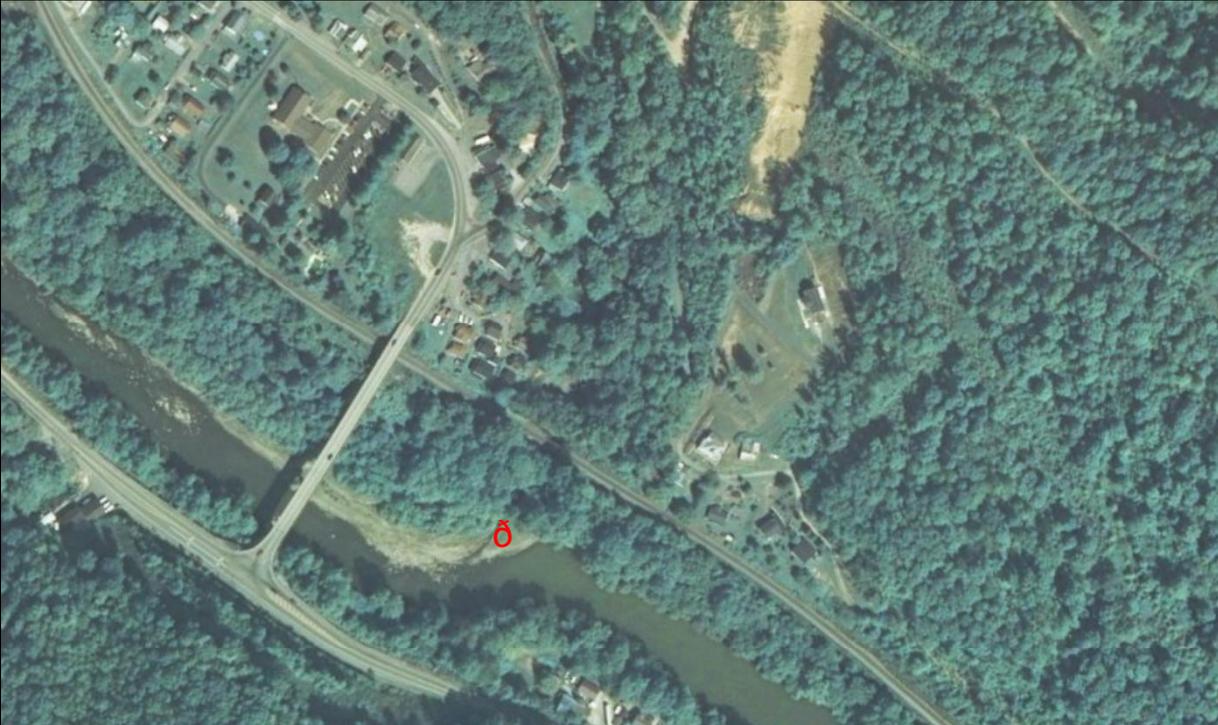


Figure 82. 2003 Aerial Photo of the OG-(74.1) Guyandotte River Ambient Sample Site in Pecks Mill, WV.

Directions to Sample Site

Sample site is located upstream of the WV Route 10 Bridge and Mill Creek at Pecks Mill in Logan County. Access to the sample point is as follows: from WV Route 10 in Pecks Mill turn onto County Route 8, travel approximately 0.1 mile and turn right onto County Route 12, follow County Route 12 till you see a pull off area on the right, from this point walk over the bank and follow Mill Creek across RR tracks to the Guyandotte River.

Description of Sampling Point

Sample is collected at midstream of Guyandotte River 15 meters upstream of Mill Creek.

Sampling Technique

Direct dip/grab method. Wadeable benthic sample can be obtained in summer low flows at same riffle.

Flow

Access USGS website for flow information – Gage site: Logan, WV / USGS #03203600

Special Instructions

Wear orange safety vest and PFD!!!

K-(31.7) Kanawha River**USGS Quadrangle:** Winfield, WV**Basin:** Lower Kanawha**County:** Putnam**Coordinates:** Latitude – 38° 31' 28.3" N Longitude – 81° 54' 42.79" W**Directions to Sample Site**

Sample site is located, on US Route 35 at the AEP Winfield Hydropower Plant on the south east side of the Locks & Dam structure, at Winfield in Putnam County. Parking is allowed inside the fenced area.

Description of Sampling Point

Sample is collected at the midpoint of the power plant intake.

Sampling Technique

Direct dip/grab method. Wadeable benthic sample cannot be obtained.

Flow

Access USGS website for flow information – Gage site: Winfield, WV / #03201305

Special Instructions

Call the Winfield Power Plant at (304) 586-3006 to arrange access. Safety training is required for each visit and provided inside plant. **Safety equipment required: Hardhat, PFD, & Safety glasses.**

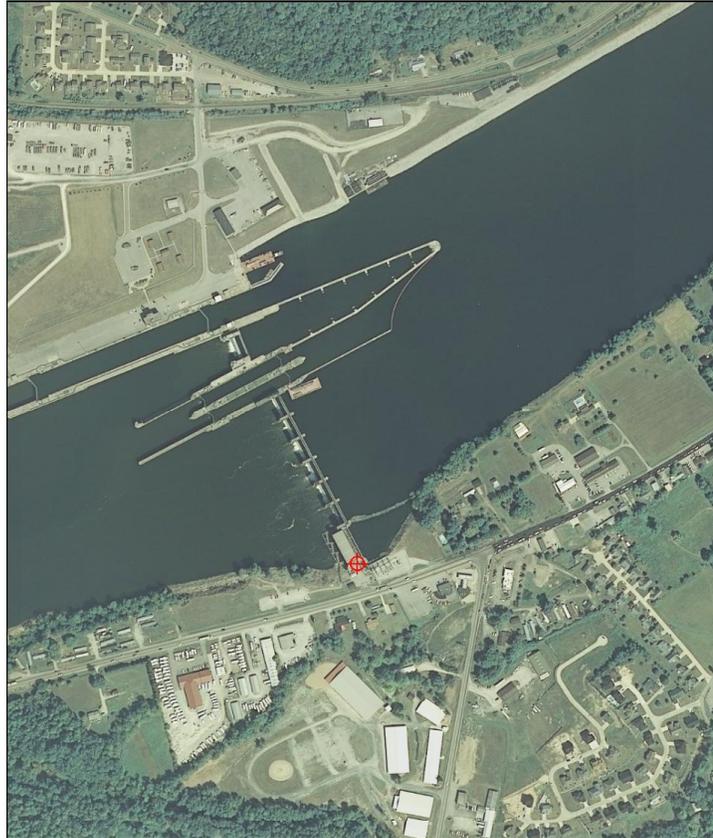


Figure 83. 2003 Aerial Photo of the K-(31.7) Kanawha River Ambient Sample Site at Winfield Locks & Dam, WV.



Figure 84. Photo of the Winfield Locks & Dam.



Figure 85. Photo of the Winfield Locks & Dam Intake Sample Area.

K-(76.9) Kanawha River

USGS Quadrangle: Cedar Grove, WV **Basin:** Upper Kanawha **County:** Kanawha
Coordinates: Latitude – 38° 11' 50.69" N Longitude – 81° 29' 49.02" W



Figure 86. 2003 Aerial Photo of the K-(76.9) Kanawha River Ambient Sample Site at Chelyan, WV.



Figure 87. Photo of the Kanawha River Sample Site from Boat Dock in Chelyan, WV.

Directions to Sample Site

Sample site is located at Chelyan, downstream of the Kanawha River Bridge, along WV Route 61 in Kanawha County.

Description of Sampling Point

Sample is collected midstream utilizing watercraft, launching from the old boat ramp adjacent to the WV Department of Highways office when feasible. When sampling conditions don't permit boat sampling, a grab sample may be taken upstream of the boat ramp on left descending bank.

Sampling Technique

Direct dip/grab method. Wadeable benthic sample cannot be obtained.

Flow

Access USGS website for flow information – Gage site: Kanawha Falls, WV / USGS #03193000

Special Instructions

Follow watercraft safety guidelines. Wear PFD!!!

KC-(11.6) Coal River

USGS Quadrangle: Alum Creek, WV

Basin: Coal

County: Kanawha

Coordinates: Latitude – 38° 20' 21.03" N Longitude – 81° 50' 27.96" W

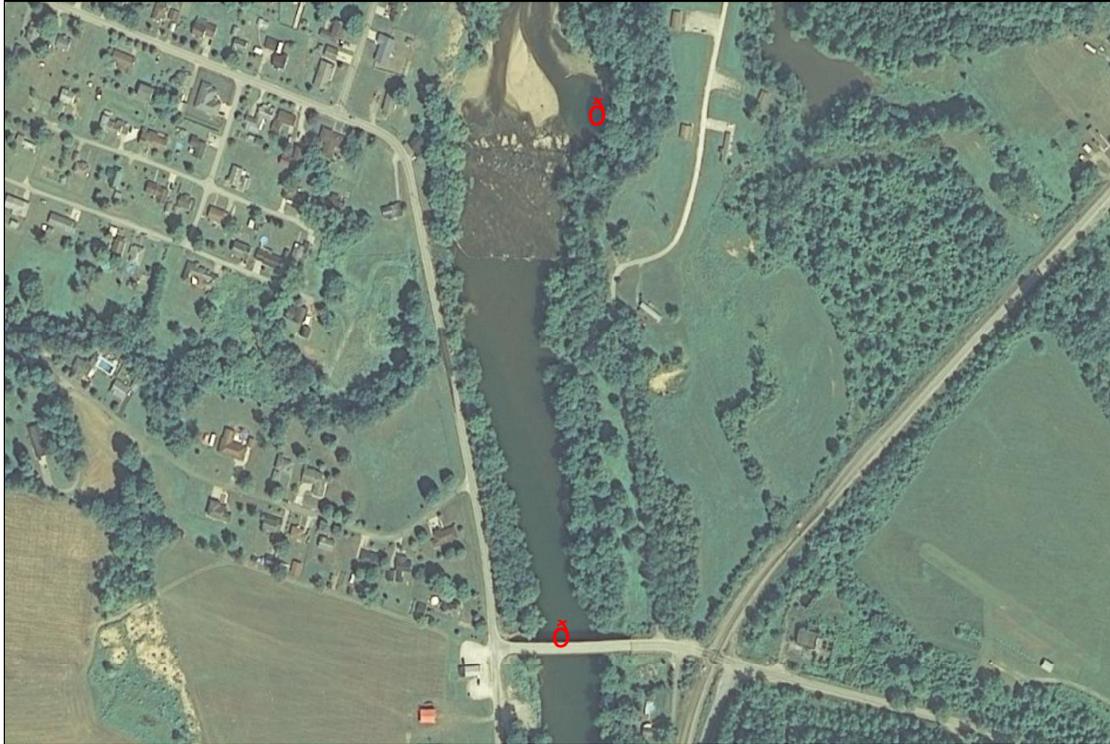


Figure 88. 2003 Aerial Photo of the KC-(11.6) Coal River Ambient Sample Site at Tornado, WV.

Directions to Sample Site

Sample site is located on the County Route 9 Bridge, near Tornado in Kanawha County.

Description of Sampling Point

Sample is collected midstream, from the bridge sidewalk, on the downstream side.

Sampling Technique

This sample is primarily obtained using the Bridge Crane Method. A proxy wadeable benthic sample can be obtained from bottom of old lock channel downstream of site on right descending bank next to Upper Falls of Coal River during summer low flows.

Flow

Access USGS website for flow information – Gage site: Tornado, WV / #03200500

Special Instructions

Wear orange safety vest and PFD!!! The Upper Falls area is notorious for downing accidents due to heavy deposits of sand below the falls and an extremely fast and deep pool in the old lock channel on the right descending bank.

KE-(4.3) Elk River

USGS Quadrangle: Big Chimney, WV

Basin: Elk

County: Kanawha

Coordinates: Latitude – 38° 23' 10.96" N Longitude – 81° 35' 3.36" W

Directions to Sample Site

Sample site is located at Coonskin Park, which is accessed from WV Route 114 in Kanawha County. Park at the boat ramp and walk the Elk River Trail downstream on left descending bank. This point is located in a slight bend in the river.

Description of Sampling Point

Sample is collected from the furthest boulder out from the left bank that you can safely sample from.

Sampling Technique

Direct dip/grab method. A proxy wadeable benthic sample can be obtained from shoals just below Mink Shoals Run approximately 0.6 miles upstream during summer low flows.



Figure 89. 2003 Aerial Photo of the KE-(4.3) Elk River Ambient Sample Site at Charleston, WV.



Figure 90. Photo of the Elk River Sampling Site from Upstream at Coonskin Park.



Figure 91. Photo of the Elk River Sampling Site Looking Upstream.

Flow

Access USGS website for flow information – Gage site: Queen Shoals, WV / #03197000

Special Instructions

Wear PFD!!!

KG-(8.3) Gauley River

USGS Quadrangle: Gauley Bridge, WV **Basin:** Gauley **County:** Fayette
Coordinates: Latitude – 38° 13' 35.57" N Longitude – 81° 09' 10.19" W



Figure 92. 2003 Aerial Photo of the KG-(8.3) Gauley River Ambient Sample Site at Beech Glen, WV.

Directions to Sample Site

Sample site is located west of Jodie in Beech Glen at the Fayette/Nicholas County line, under the CR 60/3 bridge. Alternately the site can be sampled from the CR 60/3 bridge during high flows.

Description of Sampling Point

Sample is collected midstream, upstream of the mouth of Rich Creek on the upstream side of the bridge.

Sampling Technique

Low Flow: Direct dip/grab method.

High Flow: Bridge Crane Method.

A proxy wadeable benthic sample can be obtained from riffle downstream approximately 0.1 miles at top of island during summer low flows.

Flow

Access USGS website for flow information – Gage site: Belva, WV / USGS #03192000

Special Instructions

The bridge to access the sampling point experiences a large volume of coal truck traffic.

Wear orange safety vest and PFD!!!

KN-(1.55) New River

USGS Quadrangle: Gauley Bridge, WV **Basin:** Lower New **County:** Fayette
Coordinates: Latitude – 38° 08' 53.5" N Longitude – 81° 10' 33.9" W



Figure 93. 2003 Aerial Photo of the KN-(1.55) New River Ambient Sample Site near Gauley Bridge, WV.

Directions to Sample Site

Sample site is located at the Elkem Power Station, which is 1.5 miles upstream of Gauley Bridge in Fayette County. Parking to access the Station is the first right following Cathedral Falls roadside park, along US Route 60.

Description of Sampling Point

Sample is collected from the right descending bank, just downstream Elkem Power Station East of Gauley Bridge.

Sampling Technique

Direct dip method. Wadeable benthic sample cannot be obtained.

Flow

Access USGS website for flow information – Gage site: Thurmond, WV / USGS #03185400

Special Instructions

Wear PFD!!! This location may experience a rapid increase in flow and depth at any time due to a release from the aqueduct. Heed all warnings posted at the parking area.

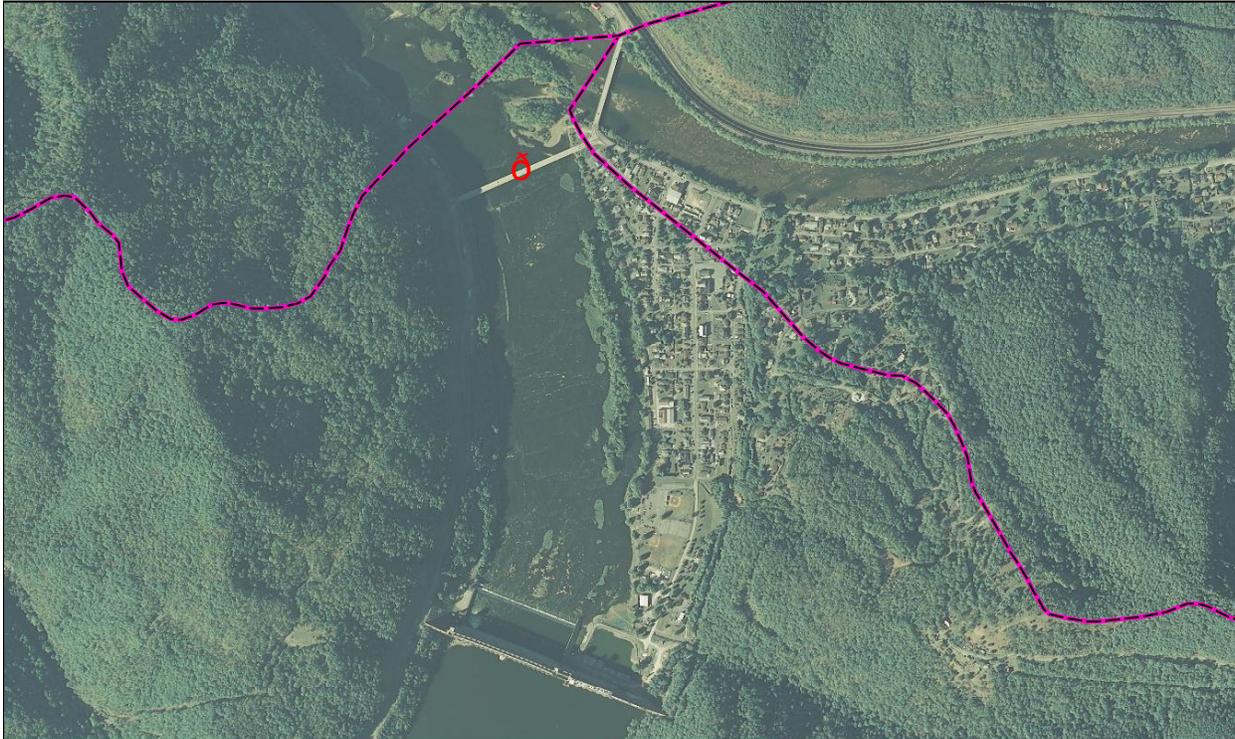
KN-(67.4) New River**USGS Quadrangle:** Hinton, WV**Basin:** Upper New**County:** Summers**Coordinates:** Latitude – 37° 39' 4.53" N Longitude – 80° 53' 11.9" W

Figure 94. 2003 Aerial Photo of the KN-(67.4) New River Ambient Sample Site in Hinton, WV.

Directions to Sample Site

Sample site is located on the WV Route 3 Bridge at Hinton in Summers County. Parking for this site is at the old USGS Gage on the east side of the bridge.

Description of Sampling Point

Sample is collected from the bridge sidewalk, at midstream on the downstream side. During low flows, sample can be collected from the same location by wading out from right descending bank. Be aware of CSO outfall on Right Descending Bank near bridge.

Sampling Technique

Low Flow: Direct dip/grab method.

High Flow: Bridge Crane Method.

Wadeable benthic sample can be obtained from riffles immediately below bridge in right descending half of channel during summer low flows.

Flow

Access USGS website for flow information – Gage site: Hinton, WV / USGS #03184500

Special Instructions

Wear orange safety vest and PFD!!! This location may experience a rapid increase in flow and depth at any time due to a release from the dam. Heed all warnings posted at the area.

KNG-(1.6) Greenbrier River**USGS Quadrangle:** Talcott, WV**Basin:** Greenbrier**County:** Summers**Coordinates:** Latitude – 37° 39' 08.24" N Longitude – 81° 51' 40.31" W

Figure 95. 2003 Aerial Photo of the KNG-(1.6) Greenbrier River Ambient Sample Site in Hinton, WV.

Directions to Sample Site

Sample site is located at Wiggins Bridge, on County Route 13, which connects with WV Route 3 approximately 1.5 miles east of Hinton in Summers County. Parking is located on the south side of the bridge at a gravel pit beside a fenced road to the river.

Description of Sampling Point

Sample is collected midstream from the bridge, on the downstream side. During low flows, sample can be collected from the same location by wading.

Sampling Technique

Low Flow: Direct dip/grab method.

High Flow: Bridge Crane Method.

A proxy wadeable benthic sample can be obtained at cobble riffle upstream approximately 1.0 miles during summer low flows.

Flow

Access USGS website for flow information – Gage site: Hilldale, WV / USGS #03184000

Special Instructions

Wear your orange safety vest and PFD!!! Traffic cones recommended.

KN-(96.2) New River**USGS Quadrangle:** Peterstown**Basin:** Upper New**County:** Giles, VA**Coordinates:** Latitude – 37° 23' 15.2" N
Longitude – 80° 52' 5.8" W**Directions to Sample Site**

Sample site is located upstream of Smith Branch north of Glen Lyn, VA. Directions are as follows: Just after crossing the WV/VA state line on Rt. 460 E, take the next left, before crossing bridge over New River. Go 0.9 miles and go right onto gravel road going alongside the river. Go 1.3 miles and pull into campsite on right.

Description of Sampling Point

Sample is collected close to midstream by wading along the large fractured bedrock slabs. Ensure sample is taken upstream of Smith Branch and as close to

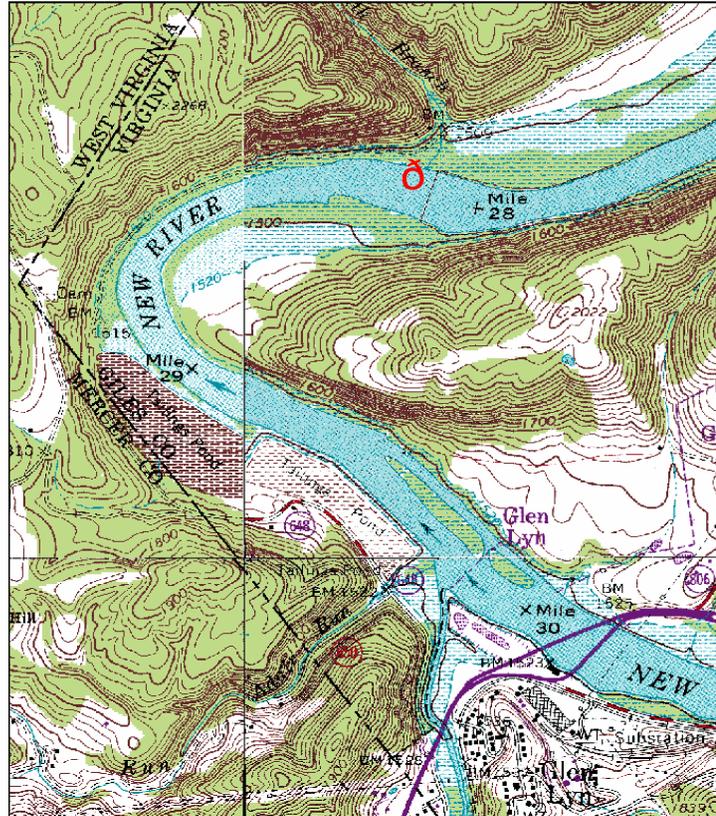


Figure 96. USGS 24k Topographic Map of the KN-(96.2) New River Ambient Sample Site north of Glen Lyn, VA.



mid-stream as flow levels allow.

Sampling Technique

Direct dip/grab method. Wadeable benthic sample can be obtained from riffle below Smith Branch on left descending bank during summer low flows.

Flow

Access USGS website for flow information – Gage site: Glen Lyn, VA / USGS #03176500

Special Instructions

Wear your PFD!!! VA Scientific Collection Permit with 24 hour notification is required to sample at this location.

Figure 97. Photo from X-Site looking toward Left Descending Bank at Mouth of Smith Branch and Parking Area.

LK-(28.9) Little Kanawha River

USGS Quadrangle: Elizabeth, WV

Basin: Little Kanawha

County: Wirt

Coordinates: Latitude – 39° 03' 18.4" N

Longitude – 81° 23' 25.84" W

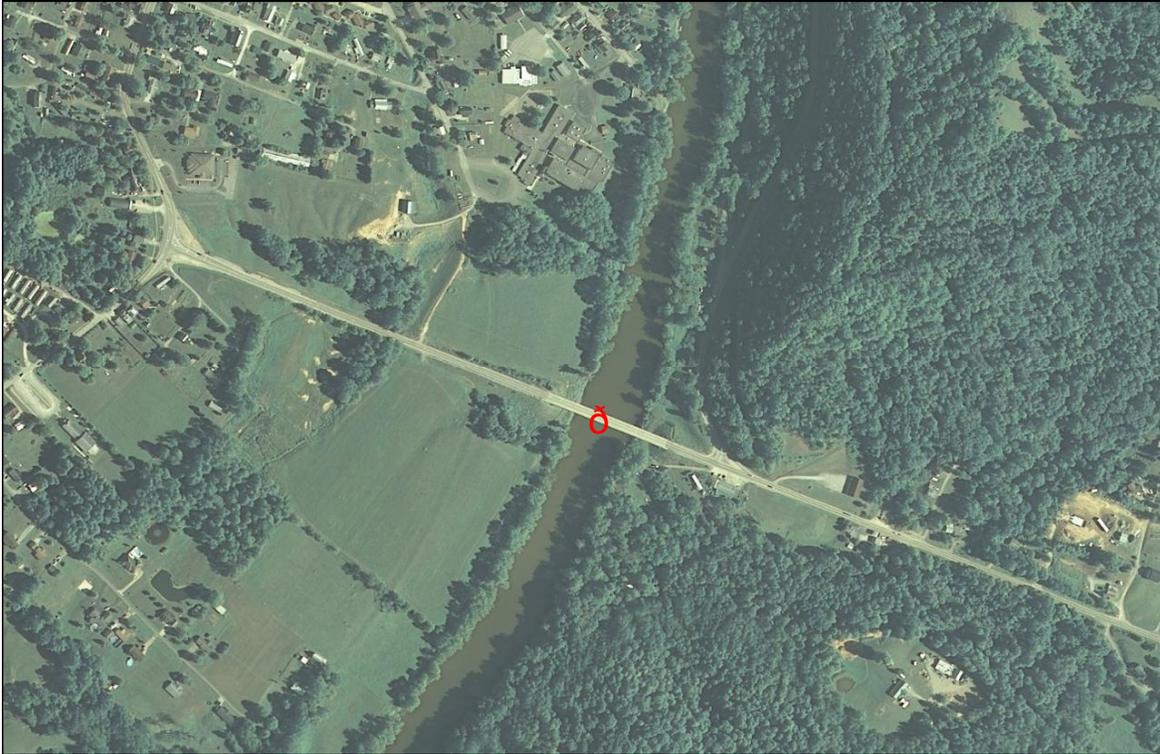


Figure 98. 2003 Aerial Photo of the LK-(28.9) Little Kanawha River Ambient Sample Site near Elizabeth, WV.

Directions to Sample Site

Sample site is located on the WV Route 5 Bridge, southeast of Elizabeth in Wirt County. Parking is located on the east side of the bridge, at a small convenience store.

Description of Sampling Point

Sample is collected at midstream, from the bridge sidewalk, on the upstream side.

Sampling Technique

Bridge Crane Method. Wadeable benthic sample cannot be obtained.

Flow

Access USGS website for flow information – Gage site: Palestine, WV / USGS #03155000

Special Instructions

Wear your orange safety vest and PFD!!!

LKH-(1.5) Hughes River

USGS Quadrangle: Kanawha, WV **Basin:** Little Kanawha **County:** Wirt
Coordinates: Latitude – 39° 07' 54.29" N Longitude – 81° 22' 38.21" W



Figure 99. 2003 Aerial Photo of the KLH-(1.5) Hughes River Ambient Sample Site near Greencastle, WV.

Directions to Sample Site

Sample site is located on Wirt County Route 6 Bridge East of Greencastle.

Description of Sampling Point

Sample is collected at midstream, from the bridge, on the downstream side. During low flows, sample may be collected at the riffle 120 m downstream of the bridge.

Sampling Technique

Low Flow: Direct dip/grab method. Wadeable benthic sample can be obtained from same riffle during summer low flows.

High Flow: Bridge Crane Method.

Flow

Flow is measured only during low flow at the riffle described above.

Special Instructions

The sampling point is a one-lane bridge, be very careful!!! Parking for the sampling site is at the church parking lot on the east side of the bridge. Walk to the flow measurement site on the gravel road between the church and the river. ***Wear your orange safety vest and PFD!!! Traffic cones recommended. Banks can be slick!***

OMI-(12.3) Middle Island Creek

USGS Quadrangle: Bens Run, WV **Basin:** Middle Ohio North **County:** Pleasants
Coordinates: Latitude – 39° 26' 08.18" N Longitude – 81° 04' 16.91" W



Figure 100. 2003 Aerial Photo of the OMI-(12.3) Middle Island Creek Ambient Sample Site in Arvilla, WV.

Directions to Sample Site

Sample site is located on Pleasants County Route 7 Bridge at Arvilla. Parking for sample collection is available on the west end of the bridge along County Route 7/2.

Description of Sampling Point

Sample is collected at midstream, from the bridge, on the upstream side.

Sampling Technique

Bridge Crane Method. A proxy wadeable benthic sample can be obtained at riffle downstream approximately 0.5 miles during summer low flows.

Flow

Flow is measured during low flows at riffle described above. Access to site is by Pleasants County Route 34.

Access USGS website for flow information – Gage site: Little, WV/ USGS # 03114500

Special Instructions

Wear orange safety vest and PFD!!! Traffic cones recommended. Bank at proxy site is steep.

M-(99.4) Monongahela River

USGS Quad: Morgantown North, WV **Basin:** Monongahela **County:** Monongalia
Coordinates: Latitude – 39° 39' 28.88" N Longitude – 79° 59' 35.33" W

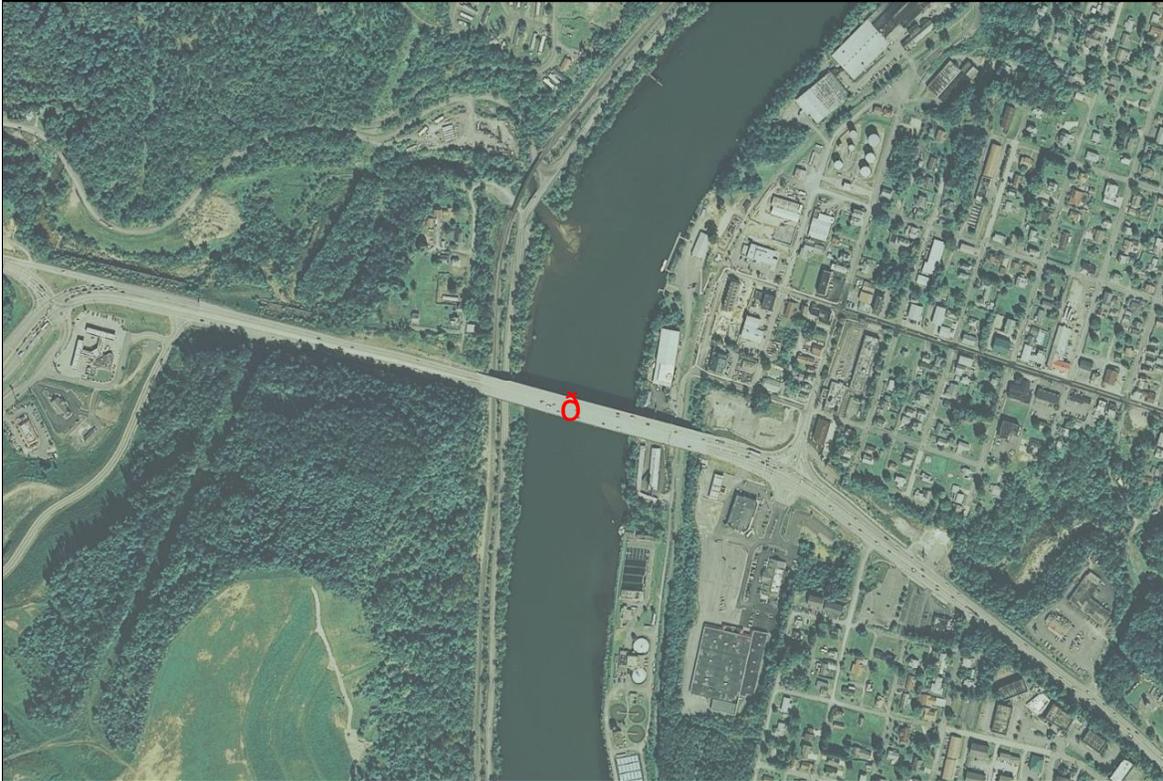


Figure 101. 2003 Aerial Photo of the M-(99.4) Monongahela River Ambient Sample Site in Star City, WV.

Directions to Sample Site

Sample site is located on the WV Route 7 Bridge at Star City.

Description of Sampling Point

Sample is collected at midstream, from the bridge sidewalk, on the upstream side.

Sampling Technique

Bridge Crane Method. Wadeable benthic sample cannot be obtained.

Flow

Access USGS website for flow information – Gage site: Morgantown Lock & Dam, WV / USGS #03062450

Special Instructions

Wear orange safety vest and PFD!!! Bridge is very high. Although there is a large sidewalk on the bridge, traffic volume is large and fast. Also be aware of any boating activity below.

M-1-(20.6) Dunkard Creek

USGS Quadrangle: Osage, WV **Basin:** Dunkard **County:** Monongalia
Coordinates: Latitude – 39° 42' 55.47" N Longitude – 80° 06' 39.96" W



Figure 102. 2003 Aerial Photo of the M-1-(20.6) Dunkard Creek Ambient Sample Site at Mason-Dixon Historical Park, WV.

Directions to Sample Site

Sample site is located just downstream or on Monongalia County Route 39 Bridge, near the Mason-Dixon Historical Park east of Pentress. This will be the second bridge you encounter after turning off WV Route 7. Parking is available at the Historical Park at a site above the playground.

Description of Sampling Point

Sampling occurs primarily at the riffle approximately 75 meters below bridge. During high flows the sample can be collected at midstream, from the bridge, on the upstream side.

Sampling Technique

Low Flow: Direct dip/grab method. Wadeable benthic sample can be obtained from same riffle during summer low flows.

High Flow: Bridge Crane Method.

Flow

Flow is measured, during low flow, at riffle described above.

Special Instructions

Wear your orange safety vest and PFD!!! Traffic cones recommended if sampling from the bridge.

MT-(6.2) Tygart Valley River

USGS Quadrangle: Fairmont West, WV **Basin:** Tygart Valley **County:** Marion
Coordinates: Latitude – 39° 26' 16.2" N Longitude – 80° 07' 56.4" W



Figure 103. 2003 Aerial Photo of the MT-(6.2) Tygart Valley River Ambient Sample Site at Colfax, WV.

Directions to Sample Site

Sample site is located on Marion County Route 62 Bridge at Colfax, which is accessed via US Route 250 south of Fairmont. Parking is available on the west side of the bridge. A low flow direct dip/grab site is at riffle downstream approximately 0.1 miles from bridge. Continue down road alongside the river to small pull off on right. Walk down bank and wade out as far as flow level permits.

Description of Sampling Point

Sample is collected at midstream, from the bridge, on the downstream side during high flows. During low flows, go to the downstream site and wade as far as flow level permits.

Sampling Technique

Low Flow: Direct dip/grab method. Wadeable benthic sample can be obtained from same riffle during summer low flows.

High Flow: Bridge Crane Method.

Flow

Access USGS website for flow information – Gage site: Colfax, WV / USGS #03057000

Special Instructions

Wear orange safety vest and PFD!!! Traffic cones recommended.

MW-(12.0) West Fork River

USGS Quadrangle: Shinnston, WV **Basin:** West Fork **County:** Harrison
Coordinates: Latitude – 39° 25' 25.02" N Longitude – 80° 16' 32.91" W

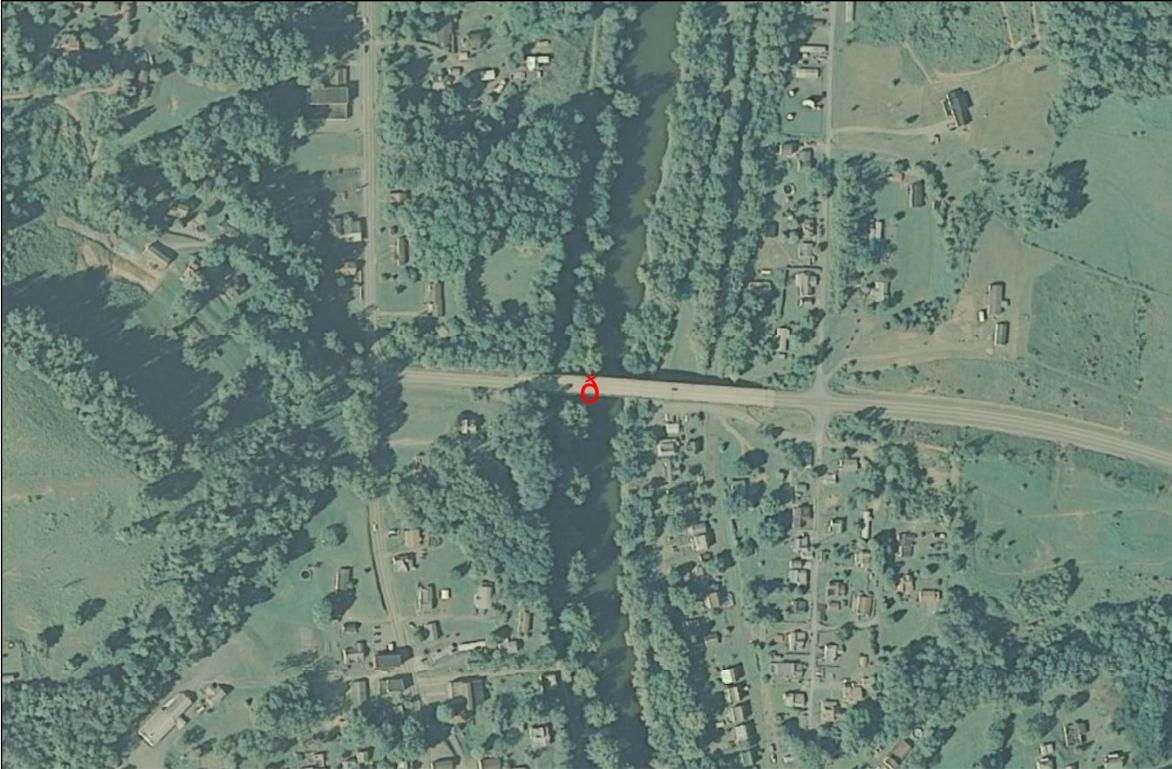


Figure 104. 2003 Aerial Photo of the MW-(12.0) West Fork River Ambient Sample Site at Enterprise,

Directions to Sample Site

Sample site is located on a bridge that intersects US Route 19 at Enterprise in Harrison County. Parking is available on the bridge berm. Turn on vehicle emergency flashers.

Description of Sampling Point

Sample is collected at midstream, from the bridge, on the downstream side.

Sampling Technique

Bridge Crane Method. A proxy wadeable benthic sample can be obtained at riffle upstream approximately 0.1 miles on opposite side of confluence of Laurel Run on right descending bank during summer low flows.

Flow

Access USGS website for flow information – Gage site: Enterprise, WV / USGS #03061000

Special Instructions

Wear orange safety vest and PFD!!! Traffic cones recommended. Traffic volume is not high, but speeders are common.

MC-(3.5) Cheat River

USGS Quadrangle: Lake Lynn, WV **Basin:** Cheat **County:** Fayette, PA
Coordinates: Latitude – 39° 43' 17.18" N Longitude – 79° 51' 27.79 W



Figure 105. 2003 Aerial Photo of the MC-(3.5) Cheat River Ambient Sample Site in Lake Lynn, PA.

Directions to Sample Site

Sample site is located at the tail waters of Lake Lynn, which is best accessed from, Point Marion, PA, via US Route 119. From US Route 119 in Point Marion, turn onto River Road and follow Cheat River upstream to the tail water access parking area.

Description of Sampling Point

Sample is collected off of the right descending bank below the parking area.

Sampling Technique

Direct dip/grab method. Wadeable benthic sample cannot be obtained.

Flow

Access USGS website for flow information – Gage site: Lake Lynn, PA / USGS #03071600

Special Instructions

This location may experience a rapid increase in flow and depth at any time due to a release from the dam. Heed all warnings posted at the parking area. Wear orange safety vest and PFD!!!

MC-(30.0) Cheat River

USGS Quadrangle: Kingwood, WV **Basin:** Cheat **County:** Preston
Coordinates: Latitude – 39° 29' 41.13" N Longitude – 79° 38' 42.99" W



Figure 106. 2003 Aerial Photo of the MC-(30.0) Cheat River Ambient Sample Site in Albright, WV.

Directions to Sample Site

Sample site is located on the WV Route 26 Bridge, at Albright in Preston County. Parking is available at the east end of the bridge.

Description of Sampling Point

Sample is collected at midstream, from the bridge, on the upstream side. During low flows, direct dip/grab method may be used in run upstream of bridge.

Sampling Technique

Low Flow: Direct dip/grab method. Wadeable benthic sample can be obtained from riffle upstream of bridge approximately 100 meters during summer low flows.

High Flow: Bridge Crane Method.

Flow

Access USGS website for flow information – Gage site: Albright, WV / USGS #03070260

Special Instructions

Wear orange safety vest and PFD!!!

P-4-(2.2) Opequon Creek

USGS Quadrangle: Hedgesville, WV **Basin:** Potomac Direct Drain **County:** Berkeley
Coordinates: Latitude – 39° 31' 02.96" N Longitude – 77° 53' 21.87" W

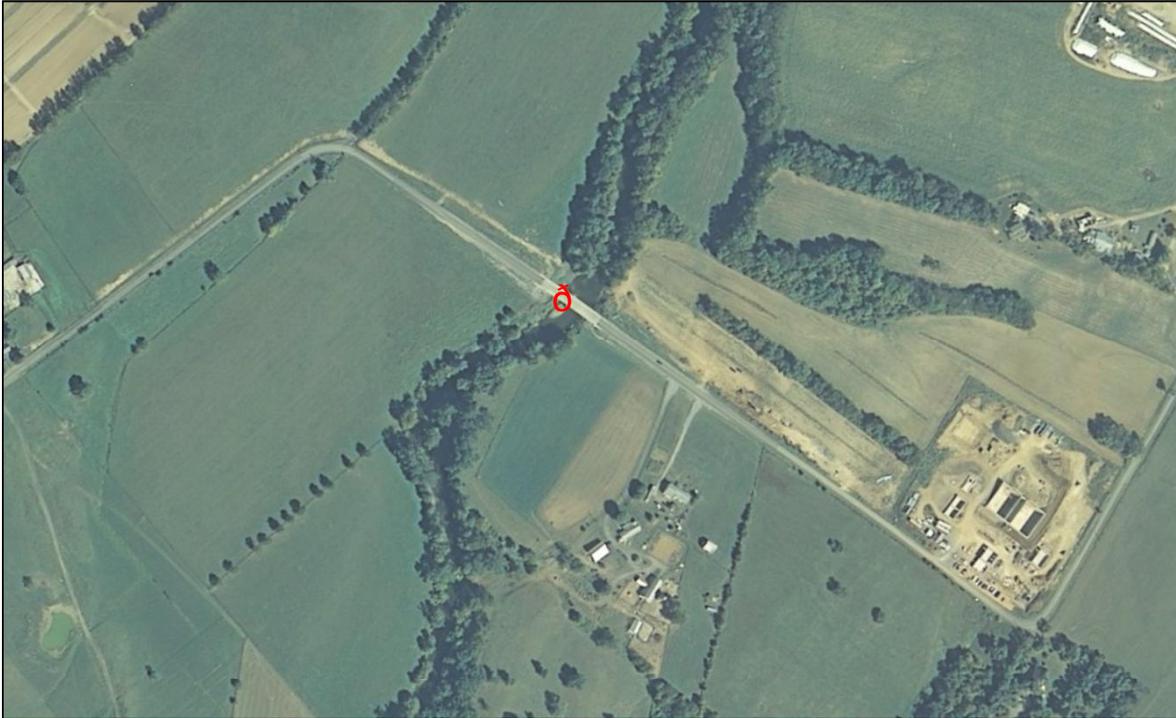


Figure 107. 2003 Aerial Photo of the P-4-(3.5) Opequon Creek Ambient Sample Site near Bedington,

Directions to Sample Site

Sample site is located on Berkeley County Route 12 Bridge east of Bedington. Parking is available on the west end of the bridge along County Route 12.

Description of Sampling Point

Sample is collected at the thalweg, from the bridge, on the upstream side or by wading out to same point during low flows.

Sampling Technique

Low Flow: Direct dip/grab method. Wadeable benthic sample can be obtained from riffle under bridge during summer low flows.

High Flow: Bridge Crane Method.

Flow

Flow is measured, during low flows, at a shallow point upstream of the bridge.

Access USGS website for flow information during normal to high flows – Gage site: Martinsburg, WV / USGS #01616500

Special Instructions

Wear orange safety vest and PFD!!! Traffic cones recommended when sampling from bridge. Note the permitted discharge below the bridge on the left descending bank.

PC-(6.1) Cacapon River

USGS Quadrangle: **Great
Cacapon, WV** Basin:
Cacapon County: **Morgan**
Coordinates: **Latitude – 39° 34’
55.43” N Longitude – 78° 18’
31.72” W**

Directions to Sample Site

Sample site is located on Morgan County Route 7 Bridge south of Great Cacapon. Parking is available on the north end of the bridge.

Description of Sampling Point

Sample is collected midstream, from the bridge, on the downstream side.

Sampling Technique

Low Flow: Direct dip/grab method. Wadeable benthic sample can be obtained from riffle under bridge during summer low flows.

High Flow: Bridge is low, without railing. Direct dip/grab method may be used by lying down and reaching over edge of bridge. Otherwise use

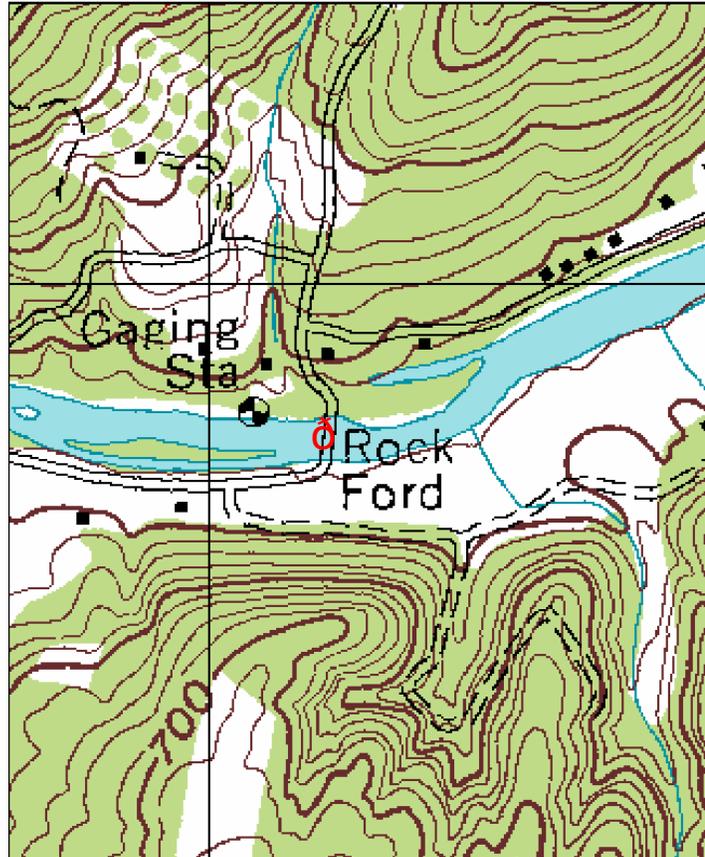


Figure 108. USGS 24k Topographic Map of the PC-(6.1) Cacapon River Ambient Sample Site south of Great Cacapon, WV.

a VDHS or SSB with rope.

Flow

Flow is measured, during low flows, at a riffle immediately downstream of the bridge.

Access USGS website for flow information during normal to high flows – Gage site: Great Cacapon, WV / USGS #01611500

Special Instructions

Wear orange safety vest and PFD!!! Be aware of traffic while sampling from bridge.



Figure 109. Photo from CR 7 bridge at the PC-(6.1) Cacapon River Ambient Sample Site south of Great Cacapon, WV.

PSB-(13.4) South Branch Potomac River

USGS Quad: Springfield, WV **Basin:** South Branch Potomac **County:** Hampshire
Coordinates: Latitude – 39° 26' 51.74" N Longitude – 78° 39' 15.25" W



Figure 110. 2003 Aerial Photo of the PSB-(13.4) South Branch Potomac River Ambient Sample Site near Springfield, WV.

Directions to Sample Site

Sample site is located on or immediately below Hampshire County Route 3 Bridge, east of Springfield.

Description of Sampling Point

Sample is collected at midstream, from the bridge, on the downstream side or by wading out as far as the flow will allow during low flows.

Sampling Technique

Low Flow: Direct dip/grab method. Wadeable benthic sample can be obtained at riffle immediately downstream of bridge at top end of island during summer low flows.

High Flow: Bridge Crane Method.

Flow

Access USGS website for flow information – Gage site: Springfield, WV / USGS #01608500

Special Instructions

Wear orange safety vest and PFD!!! Traffic cones recommended when sampling from bridge.

S-(0.9) Shenandoah River

USGS Quadrangle: Harpers Ferry, WV **Basin:** Shenandoah **County:** Jefferson
Coordinates: Latitude – 39° 19' 12.36" N Longitude – 77° 44' 31.97" W



Figure 111. 2003 Aerial Photo of the S-(0.9) Shenandoah River Ambient Sample Site near Harpers Ferry, WV.

Directions to Sample Site

Sample site is located on US Route 340 Bridge at Harpers Ferry in Jefferson County. Parking is available at the west end of the bridge.

Description of Sampling Point

Sample is collected at midstream, from the bridge sidewalk, on the downstream side or by wading out to midstream above the bridge during low flow.

Sampling Technique

Low Flow: Direct dip/grab method. Wadeable benthic sample can be obtained at riffle approximately 100 meters upstream of bridge off of the left descending bank during summer low flows.

High Flow: Bridge Crane Method.

Flow

Access USGS website for flow information – Gage site: Millville, WV / USGS #01636500

Special Instructions

Wear orange safety vest and PFD!!! Be aware of high volume of traffic on bridge. Riffles above bridge also have a high volume of recreational users during warm months. Be careful to try and sample undisturbed substrate.

Ambient Water Quality Network Quality Assurance/Quality Control

Once a year, all field participants in the WAB attend mandatory training sessions in March-April prior to the initiation of the major sampling season. The purpose of these sessions is to ensure that all field personnel are familiar with sampling protocols and calibrated to sampling standards. Whilst a specific session on Ambient Water Quality Network sampling is not covered, other sessions (e.g., site documentation and completing the stream assessment forms, water collection protocols, stream flow measurement, field blanks and duplicates, etc.) are covered. In the field, individuals who are more experienced in sampling the Ambient Water Quality Network will be teamed up to give hands-on training to less experienced to assure reinforcement of training and accurate results before they are allowed to sample these stations solo. This document is also provided to all program personnel for review and use in the field.

Sample labels are to be accurate and complete and contain all the pertinent information. Sampling equipment will be checked for contaminants and excess dirt or moisture cleaned before and after each sampling event. Lot numbers of all preservatives are recorded on the Analysis Request Form for each sample submitted and entered into the database to allow for easy tracking. Sample transfer to the lab shall also be documented using the Chain-of-Custody (COC) portion of the Analysis Request Form.

Duplicate sampling and field blanks must be performed at a minimum of 2.5% of Ambient Water Quality Network sites for each sampling round. The field blank and duplicate data are looked at by Watershed Assessment Branch staff and scrutinized to find any possible discrepancies, contamination, or faults in the sampling methods and techniques. Any problems are brought to the attention of the program management and steps are made to immediately correct the problem. Data that is related to the problem are flagged with notes concerning the details of the situation so that decisions can be made whether or not to include the data in any further assessments or analysis. Procedures for performing duplicates and field blanks are presented below. **See Chapter XII. Section A. Field Blanks and Duplicates starting on page 285 for additional information.**