Data file description

January 6, 2012

These data were extracted from the Passaic River-Newark Bay EQuIS database by CDM for use on the public website OurPassaic.org.

Contained in this file (2009 CPG BENTHIC SEDIMENT STUDY.zip) are the laboratory analytical data associated with surface sediment samples collected in October and November 2009 at depths ranging from zero to 0.5 feet below the surface. The sediment data include laboratory results for both normal environmental (N) and field duplicate (FD) samples as indicated in the column titled "sample_type." The sediment samples were analyzed by the laboratory for grain size, total carbon, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), dioxins and furans, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), pesticides, metals, acid volatile sulfides, total saturated hydrocarbons, total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH), and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). All of the results were considered to be reportable and results included those associated with initial analysis, dilutions, re-analyses, and re-extractions, as indicated in the column titled "test_type." Dilutions were required by the laboratory for several results, as indicated in the column titled "dilution_factor." The laboratory results included both concentrations detected above their respective laboratory reporting limits and non-detects. Varying levels of data validation were conducted. Select samples were subjected to reduced or full validation, while other samples did not undergo validation. The qualifiers as provided by both the laboratory and the validator, where applicable, are presented. The data set includes only target results as provided by the laboratory; none of the data provided was based on calculations completed following receipt of the data from the laboratory, as identified in the column titled "result_type_code." Latitude and longitude coordinates as well as the stream mile at which samples were collected are provided for each sample location.

The data are contained in a Microsoft Access database on the Analytical Results table. There are also a series of reference tables starting with "rt" that describe certain values used in the data set. Users have the ability to create their own queries for reviewing and analyzing these data. Please be aware that there are no relationships between the tables, since all of the data are contained on the Analytical Results table and the "rt" tables are provided simply for data definition.