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U.S. Geological Survey National Water Information System

<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis>

The USGS National Water Information System (NWIS) contains historical and real-time data on the “occurrence, quantity, quality, distribution, and movement” of water resources at approximately 1.5 million sites in the US and its territories. These data are available to the public through a web interface. Most surface water data describes flow rates and stages at rivers, lakes, diversions, and reservoirs. Groundwater data are mainly water levels in wells and spring discharge. Water quality data include parameters such as temperature, conductance, pH, major and minor element chemistry, nutrients, pesticides, and volatile organic compounds. Data can be retrieved by selecting a data type among surface water, groundwater, or water quality categories from specified sites, lists of sites, or a geographic area.