

Dataset Documentation

Event Duration Monitoring - Storm Overflows -2020

<29/03/2021>

This document will help you understand and use the Event Duration Monitoring dataset relating to the performance of storm overflows, provided by Water and Sewerage Companies for the 2020 regulatory annual return.

Dataset description

The dataset includes 10 (one for each Water and Sewerage Company with storm overflows in England) files describing how often and for how long monitored storm overflows discharged during 2020. The Water and Sewerage Companies provide this regulatory return to the Environment Agency each year to fulfil their permitted conditions to discharge from these storm overflows under the Environmental Permitting Regulations.

An eleventh data file summarises the key statistics of the 10 data files, including; how many storm overflows were monitored and the average spill duration and spill count for each Water and Sewerage Company.

Update frequency

This dataset will be updated annually in March.

Related datasets

This dataset presents the performance of permitted (under Environmental Permitting Regulations) storm overflows. Further details of permitted storm overflows can be found in our dataset '[Consented Discharges to Controlled Waters with Conditions](#)'.

Common questions & known issues

The 10 Water and Sewerage Company datasets are extracts of those provided to the Environment Agency for the 2020 annual regulatory return.

The additional summary dataset has been produced by the Environment Agency to show key findings, variations and trends.

The file format is substantially consistent for each Water and Sewerage Company. Where additional information might help a customer, for example by providing alternative permit reference codes, these are included in an additional column.

The key performance measures are in the following columns;

- **Total duration (hours) of all spills prior to processing through 12-24 hour counting method** - this describes how many hours the storm overflow was measured to discharge to the environment in 2020.
- **Counted spills using 12-24 hour counting method** - this describes how many occurrences the storm overflow was measured to discharge to the environment in 2020. The 12-24hr counting method ensures that very long continuous spills over multiple days are not counted as one spill. It is described in our guidance; 'Water companies: environmental permits for storm overflows and emergency overflows - Updated 13 September 2018' found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/water-companies-environmental-permits-for-storm-overflows-and-emergency-overflows/water-companies-environmental-permits-for-storm-overflows-and-emergency-overflows>

- A third field; **% of reporting period EDM operational** measures what percentage of the monitoring period the monitor was functioning and could record discharges if one occurred.
- A '**Comments**' field is included so that Water and Sewerage Companies can explain monitoring issues that they encountered and how these were rectified.

Note: We do our best to avoid quality problems but this dataset reflects the data we hold. Our datasets may contain errors.

Dataset content

- EAv EDM_Return_Anglian_Water_Annual_2020.xls
- EAv EDM_Return_Dwr_Cymru_Welsh_Water_Annual_2020.xls
- EAv EDM_Return_Northumbrian_Water_Annual_2020.xls
- EAv EDM_Return_Severn_Trent_Water_Annual_2020.xls
- EAv EDM_Return_South_West_Water_Annual_2020.xls
- EAv EDM_Return_Southern_Water_Annual_2020.xls
- EAv EDM_Return_Thames_Water_Annual_2020.xls
- EAv EDM_Return_United_Uilities_Annual_2020.xls
- EAv EDM_Return_Wessex_Water_Annual_2020.xls
- EAv EDM_Returns_Yorkshire_Water_Annual_2020.xls
- EAv EDM_Returns_Summary_2020.xls

The following fields apply to the 10 Water and Sewerage Company data sets.

Field name	Description
Water Company Name	The name of the Water and Sewerage Company that is permitted to operate the storm overflow and who made the data return to the Environment Agency
Site Name	The permitted site name of the storm overflow
Permit No.	The EPR permit reference number for the storm overflow
Activity Reference (if more than one discharge) on permit	Where more than one discharge is referenced on the permit, this identifies which discharge is being measured. For example in some cases emergency overflows have been included in the dataset, these are not storm overflows and should be excluded when looking for storm overflow performance.
Shellfishery (Only populate for storm overflows that have Shellfish water EDM requirements)	The name of the designated shellfishery.
Bathing Beach (Only populate for storm overflows that have bathing water EDM requirements)	The name of the designated bathing water.
Total Duration (hours) of all spills prior to processing through 12-24 hour counting method	This describes how many hours the storm overflow was measured to discharge to the environment in 2020.
Counted spills using 12-24hr counting method	This describes how many occurrences the storm overflow was measured to discharge to the environment in 2020. The 12-24hr counting method ensures that very long continuous spills over multiple days are not counted as one spill. It is described in our guidance; 'Water companies: environmental permits for storm overflows and emergency overflows - Updated 13 September 2018' found here: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/water-companies-environmental-permits-for-storm-overflows-and-emergency-overflows/water-companies-environmental-permits-for-storm-overflows-and-emergency-overflows .
% of reporting period EDM operational	A percentage that measures what percentage of the monitoring period the monitor was functioning and could record discharges if one occurred.
Comments	A "Comments" field is included so that Water and Sewerage Companies can explain monitoring issues that they encountered and how these were rectified.
Folio	An alternative to the "permit No." field included by Southern Water to assist Customers identify storm overflow details.
Permit No. National Database (Best Match)	An alternative to the "permit No." field included by United Utilities to assist Customers identify storm overflow details.
Permit No. National Database Full Name	An alternative to the "Site Name" field included by United Utilities to assist customers identify storm overflow details.

customer service line

03708 506 506

www.gov.uk/environment-agency

incident hotline

0800 80 70 60

floodline

0345 988 1188

The following fields apply to the summary data set.

Field name	Description
Number of overflows declared by WaSCs (totals for DC/WW in England)	The number of storm overflows that the Water and Sewerage Company has declared that it operates.
Number of Storm Overflows included in EDM Regulatory Return	How many storm overflows are included in the Event Duration Monitoring annual return for 2020.
Overflows with numeric data	How many storm overflows in the Event Duration Monitoring annual return have performance data.
Number of spill events in 2020 return	How many spill events were counted?
Duration (hrs) of Spill events in 2020 return	For how many hours storm overflows discharged. Note that many storm overflows will be discharging at the same time.
Average Number of spills / Overflow	The average number of spill that were measured per overflow.
Average duration of spill (hrs)	The average duration of spill that was measured per overflow.
Percentage time operating for average overflow	For what percentage of the year did the average overflow operate?
% that did not spill (0 times)	The percentage of monitored storm overflows that did not discharge in 2020.
% that spill less than or equal to 20 times	The percentage of monitored storm overflows that did discharged less than or equal to 20 times in 2020.
% that spill 60 times or more	The percentage of monitored storm overflows that discharged more than or equal to 60 times in 2020.
% that spill 100 times or more	The percentage of monitored storm overflows that discharged more than or equal to 100 times in 2020.
% with percentage return =0	The percentage of monitored storm overflows that did not include any numeric performance data.
% with percentage return <90	The percentage of monitored storm with a less than 90% return of data.
% with comments if return <90	The percentage of monitored storm overflows with a less than 90% return of data that had comments included within the dataset.

