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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE / National Bureau of Standards



CODES FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF HYDROLOGIC UNITS IN THE UNITED STATES AND THE CARIBBEAN OUTLYING AREAS

CATEGORY: DATA STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES
SUBCATEGORY: REPRESENTATIONS AND CODES;
EARTH SCIENCE SERIES.

OPENED UNDER A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.



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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, Malcolm Baldrige, *Secretary*
NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS, Ernest Ambler, *Director*

Foreword

The Federal Information Processing Standards Publication Series of the National Bureau of Standards is the official publication relating to standards adopted and promulgated under the provisions of Public Law 89-306 (Brooks Act) and under Part 6 of Title 15, Code of Federal Regulations. These legislative and executive mandates have given the Secretary of Commerce important responsibilities for improving the utilization and management of computers and automatic data processing in the Federal Government. To carry out the Secretary's responsibilities, the NBS, through its Institute for Computer Sciences and Technology, provides leadership, technical guidance, and coordination of Government efforts in the development of guidelines and standards in these areas.

Comments concerning Federal Information Processing Standards Publications are welcomed and should be addressed to the Director, Institute for Computer Sciences and Technology, National Bureau of Standards, Washington, DC 20234.

James H. Burrows, *Director*
Institute for Computer Sciences and Technology

Abstract

This standard adopts the set of codes used to identify hydrologic units published in *Geological Survey Circular 878-A*. These codes identify a hydrologic system that divides the United States and Caribbean outlying areas into 21 major regions. These regions are further subdivided into approximately 2150 units that delineate river basins having drainage areas usually greater than 700 square miles. The codes provide a standardized base for use by water-resources organizations.

FIPS 103 was developed by the U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Department of the Interior, for use in automated earth-science systems, and was adopted as a result of a Memorandum of Understanding signed in February 1980 between the National Bureau of Standards and the Geological Survey.

Key words: code; data; earth sciences; Federal Information Processing Standard; geographic code; hydrologic units; standard; U.S. Geological Survey (USGS); water resources organizations.

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(includes Geological Survey Circular 878-A, 121 pages).
(1984)

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**Federal Information
Processing Standards Publication 103**

1983 November 15



Announcing the Standard for

**CODES FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF HYDROLOGIC UNITS IN
THE UNITED STATES AND THE CARIBBEAN OUTLYING AREAS**

Federal Information Processing Standards Publications (FIPS PUBS) are issued by the National Bureau of Standards in accordance with section 111(f)(2) of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended, Public Law 89-306 (79 Stat. 1127), Executive Order 11717 (38 FR 12315, dated May 11, 1973), and Part 6 of Title 15 Code of Federal Regulations.

1. **Name of Standard:** Codes for the Identification of Hydrologic Units in the United States and the Caribbean Outlying Areas, (FIPS PUB 103).
2. **Category of Standard:** Data Standards and Guidelines; Representations and Codes: Earth Science Series.
3. **Explanation:** This standard adopts the set of codes used to identify hydrologic units published in *Geological Survey Circular 878-A*. These codes identify a hydrologic system that divides the United States and Caribbean outlying areas into 21 major regions. These regions are further subdivided into approximately 2150 units that delineate river basins having drainage areas usually greater than 700 square miles. The codes provide a standardized base for use by water-resources organizations in the storage, retrieval, and exchange of hydrologic data, the indexing and inventorying of hydrologic data and information, the cataloging of water-data acquisition activities, and a variety of other applications.

This data standard is one of a series developed under the leadership of the U.S. Geological Survey for use in automated earth-science systems. Earth sciences include geology, topography, geography, and hydrology, and are concerned with the material and morphology of the Earth and physical forces relating to the Earth.

4. **Approving Authority:** The Secretary of Commerce.
5. **Maintenance Agency:** U.S. Geological Survey, Water Resources Division, Office of Water Data Coordination, 417 National Center, Reston, VA 22092.

Questions concerning the list of entities and codes should be addressed to the Office of Water Data Coordination, which will make all necessary amendments to the standard. The Geological Survey has assumed the leadership in developing and maintaining earth-science data element and representation standards under the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding signed in February 1980 by the National Bureau of Standards of the Department of Commerce and the Geological Survey, a bureau of the Department of the Interior.

The Maintenance Agency is responsible for the content of the standard and will provide the National Bureau of Standards with information on adopted changes. Change notices to the standard will be issued by the National Bureau of Standards. Users of the standard who need to be notified of changes may complete the change request form included in this publication and return the form to the address indicated.

6. **Cross Index:** None.
7. **Applicability:** This Federal general data element and representation standard is made available for data interchange among Federal departments and agencies and for Federal data interchange with the non-Federal sector including industry, State, local, and other governments, and the public at large.
8. **Implementation Schedule:** This standard became effective November 15, 1983. Use by Federal agencies is encouraged when such use contributes to operational benefits, efficiency, or economy.

9. Specifications: This standard adopts Geological Survey Circular 878-A, *Codes for the Identification of Hydrologic Units in the United States and the Caribbean Outlying Areas*, July, 1981, Reston, VA, except for cataloging units 21030001 (Panama Canal Zone) and 21030003 (Roncador and Serrana Banks), which are deleted.

10. Where To Obtain Copies of the Standard: Copies of this publication and the associated specifications are available for sale by the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), U.S. Department of Commerce, Springfield, VA 22161. When ordering, refer to Federal Information Processing Standards Publication 103 (FIPSPUB103) and title. If microfiche is desired, this should be specified.

Inquiries concerning the FIPS data element standards program may be directed to the Manager, Data Administration Group, National Bureau of Standards, Washington, DC 20234; telephone (301) 921-3491.

11. Directions for Ordering State Hydrologic Unit Maps: See next page.

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States *east* of the Mississippi River, including Minnesota and the Caribbean Region. Order from:

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U.S. Geological Survey
1200 South Eads Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Phone: (703) 557-2750
(FTS) 557-2751

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P.O. Box 25286
Federal Center
Denver, CO 80225
Phone: (303) 234-3832
(FTS) 234-3832

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Utah	2.00
Washington	2.00
Wyoming	2.00

¹The map of the Caribbean Region includes Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Scale 1: 240,000.

Hydrologic Unit Map of the United States—1980, Scale 1:2,500,000, (2 sheets) \$5.00. Order from Eastern Region.

Accounting Units of the National Water Data Network—1979, Scale 1:7,500,000.

Free from: Office of Water Data Coordination, 417 National Center, Reston, VA 22092.

CHANGE NOTICE REQUEST FORM

TO

FIPS PUB 103

CODES FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF HYDROLOGIC UNITS IN
THE UNITED STATES AND THE CARIBBEAN OUTLYING AREAS

Standards Processing Coordinator (ADP)
Institute for Computer Sciences and Technology
National Bureau of Standards
Washington, DC 20234

Gentlemen:

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National Standard Reference Data Series—Provides quantitative data on the physical and chemical properties of materials, compiled from the world's literature and critically evaluated. Developed under a worldwide program coordinated by NBS under the authority of the National Standard Data Act (Public Law 90-396).

NOTE: The principal publication outlet for the foregoing data is the Journal of Physical and Chemical Reference Data (JPCRD) published quarterly for NBS by the American Chemical Society (ACS) and the American Institute of Physics (AIP). Subscriptions, reprints, and supplements available from ACS, 1155 Sixteenth St., NW, Washington, DC 20056.

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