

# National Outbreak Reporting System (NORS)

## User Training Document – Other and Unknown Water Section

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# 1. INTRODUCTION – OTHER/UNKNOWN SECTION

This is a National Outbreak Reporting System (NORS) training guide for waterborne disease outbreak reports. The document provides a brief overview of how to complete the Other/Unknown water section in NORS. Training guides for the other types of water sections are available in separate training documents.

In the Water section, after you have selected “Other water” or “Unknown water uses” as the “Type of Water Exposure” and completed the tabs in that section, go to the Other/Unknown section.

The screenshot shows the NORS interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with five tabs: General Section, Water, Etiology & Lab, Other/Unknown, and Attachments. Below this, there are sub-tabs for 'Type of Water Exposure', 'Epidemiologic Data', 'Water Admin I', and 'Water Admin II'. The main content area is titled 'Step 9 : Type of Water Exposure' and contains a form with the following options:

- Treated recreational water (e.g., in manufactured venues such as pools, hot tub/spa, spray pads, at-home kiddie pools)
- Untreated recreational water (e.g., water in natural venue such as freshwater lakes, hot springs, marine beaches/oceans)
- Drinking water in public or individual water systems (e.g., municipal system, private well, commercially-bottled water, water kiosk), regardless of the exposure pathway (i.e., not limited to ingestion)
- Other water (e.g., cooling/industrial, water reuse, irrigation, occupational, decorative/display, includes water consumed from sources such as back-country streams)
- Unknown water uses (i.e., the intended purpose or use of the water is unknown or the water exposure category could not be determined)

In the Other/Unknown Section, you can to enter data about the intended use of the water, any contributing factors for water implicated, and any remarks from the outbreak investigation.

The screenshot shows the NORS interface with the 'Other/Unknown' section selected in the navigation bar. Below the navigation bar, there are sub-tabs for 'Intent for Use', 'Contributing Factors', and 'Remarks'.

If you need additional guidance or have other report questions, click on the Quick Help icon, a blue button with the question mark near the top of each question box within the NORS interface,  or see the NORS-Water Guidance Document at <http://www.cdc.gov/nors/forms.html>.

## 2. INTENT FOR USE TAB

Begin with the Intent for Use Tab. The Intent for Use Tab collects information about the intended or proposed use of water in the Intent for Use Section and any description of the water implicated in the outbreak investigation in the Water Description Section.

### 2.1 INTENT FOR USE SECTION

In the “Intent for Use” picklist, select all options that best describe the intended use of the implicated water source by selecting one or multiple intended water uses from the picklist. More than one option can be selected by pressing “Ctrl” on the keyboard as you click multiple options in the “Intent for Use” picklist. If the response includes “Other,” describe the other intended use in the Remarks Tab.

The screenshot displays the NORS software interface. At the top, a breadcrumb trail shows the navigation path: General Section → Water → Etiology & Lab → Other/Unknown → Attachments. Below this, the 'Intent for Use' tab is selected, with 'Contributing Factors' and 'Remarks' also visible. A dark blue header bar indicates 'Step 16 : Other/Unknown - Intent for Use', with 'Previous' and 'Next' buttons on the right. The main content area is titled 'Intent for Use' and contains a picklist with the following options: Agricultural - Animal Use, Agricultural Irrigation, Cooling/Air Conditioning, Industrial/Occupational (highlighted in blue), Mister, Ornamental, Other, Trout Stream, and Unknown. Below the picklist, there is a 'Water Description' section with an 'Add Vehicle' button.

## 2.2 WATER DESCRIPTION SECTION

The Water Description Section collects information about the type of Other/Unknown water implicated in the outbreak in a table. To add a water description, click on the “Add Vehicle” link and enter information into the pop-up window. Report the “Water Type” that best describes the water, the “Setting of Exposure”, and if applicable the “USUAL Water Treatment Provided”. If the “USUAL Water Treatment Provided” is “Disinfection” or “Filtration”, please select the “Water Treatment Subtype” that best describes the type of disinfection or filtration method. Click on the “Save” button complete the entry and close the pop-up box. If there is more than one description of the “Water Type”, “Setting of Exposure”, or “USUAL Water Treatment Provided”, click on the “Add Vehicle” link and complete the process listed above.

The screenshot displays the NORS software interface for the 'Other/Unknown' section. The main window has a navigation bar with tabs for 'General Section', 'Water', 'Etiology & Lab', 'Other/Unknown', and 'Attachments'. Below this, there are sub-tabs for 'Intent for Use', 'Contributing Factors', and 'Remarks'. The current view is 'Step 16 : Other/Unknown - Intent for Use'. A list of water types is shown, with 'Industrial/Occupational' selected. A 'Water Description' table is visible at the bottom, with an 'Add Vehicle' button highlighted by a red box. A pop-up window titled 'Add Water Vehicle' is open, containing the following fields:

- Water Type: Cooling Tower
- Setting of Exposure: Community/Municipality
- USUAL Water Treatment Provided: Disinfection
- Water Treatment Subtype: Chloramine

Buttons for 'Cancel' and 'Save' are located at the bottom of the pop-up window.

### 3. CONTRIBUTING FACTORS TAB

The Contributing Factors Tab collects information about any factors identified that contributed to the outbreak (e.g., that increased water contamination or the likelihood of exposure). Select a factor by clicking on the corresponding radio button to label a factor as “Confirmed/Documented” or “Suspected.” To undo a selection, click on the “Clear” link at the beginning of the row. If a contributing factor is not displayed in this list, it can be manually added. To manually add a contributing factor, scroll to the end of the list and write the contributing factor in the “Factor not found?” field. Click on “Add Factor” button to add the factor to the list. Once a new value has been added, it will be included in list of options available to all NORS users.

General Section > Water > Etiology & Lab > **Other/Unknown** > Attachments

Intent for Use **Contributing Factors** Remarks

Step 17 : Other/Unknown - Contributing Factors Previous Next

Factors Contributing to Contamination and/or Increased Exposure to Contaminated Water

Confirmed/Documented or Suspected	Factor Name
<a href="#">Clear</a> <input type="radio"/> Confirmed/Documented <input type="radio"/> Suspected	wildlife - amphibians
<a href="#">Clear</a> <input type="radio"/> Confirmed/Documented <input type="radio"/> Suspected	Wildlife contamination
<a href="#">Clear</a> <input type="radio"/> Confirmed/Documented <input type="radio"/> Suspected	Wildlife contamination - Birds
<a href="#">Clear</a> <input type="radio"/> Confirmed/Documented <input type="radio"/> Suspected	Wildlife contamination - Mammals

Factor not found?

## 4. REMARKS TAB

The Remarks tab contains a single text field for any additional comments about the waterborne disease outbreak investigation. Add remarks up to 5000 characters in the box provided. Note that descriptions of water intended for other uses can be added to the remarks.

The screenshot shows the 'Remarks' tab in the NORS system. At the top, there is a navigation bar with five tabs: 'General Section', 'Water', 'Etiology & Lab', 'Other/Unknown', and 'Attachments'. Below this, there are three sub-tabs: 'Intent for Use', 'Contributing Factors', and 'Remarks', with 'Remarks' being the active tab. The main content area has a dark blue header that reads 'Step 18 : Other/Unknown - Remarks' on the left and 'Previous' and 'Next' buttons on the right. Below the header is a light blue box labeled 'Remarks' with a help icon. Inside this box is a large, empty text input field. At the bottom left of the text field, it says 'characters left: 5000'.

## 5. ATTACHMENTS SECTION

Attach any relevant information to the NORS report in the Attachments Section. Do not include any personally identifiable information (e.g., private property’s address). The maximum file size acceptable is 4 MB. File types that can be attached include images (e.g., jpeg, png), documents (e.g., Word, PDF), or other file types with information (e.g., Excel). To attach a file, click on the “Browse” button to locate the file, and click the “Upload” button to upload the attachment to the NORS report.

The attached file will appear in a summary table if the file was uploaded successfully.

Document Name	Document Length (bytes)	Document Type	Upload Date
Test.docx	12,717	application/vnd.openxmlformats-officedocument.wordprocessingml.document	09/04/2014

You have now finished reviewing the Other/Unknown Section of a waterborne disease outbreak report. Make sure to click the “*Save Report*” button near the top of the screen before exiting the report.

If you need assistance in completing other sections of NORS, please refer to the online technical and guidance documents located at

<http://www.cdc.gov/nors/>.

For further assistance or for questions or comments, please email [NORSWater@cdc.gov](mailto:NORSWater@cdc.gov).