WFD Groundwater Bodies

Consequences of the new national hydrogeological reference system BDLISA for their delineation in France

Since 2012 and the release of BDLISA, some River Basin Districts are engaged in the adjustment of their Water Framework Directive groundwater bodies, based on this up-to-date hydrogeological knowledge.

For the next River Basin Management Plans (RBMP), WFD groundwater bodies are:

- Adjusted for following River Basin Districts:
  - Loire, Brittany and Vendee coastal waters → 143 bodies : number maintained between 1st and 2nd RBMP
  - Rhone and Coastal Mediterranean → from 180 bodies for 1st RBMP to 239 for 2nd RBMP
  - Corsica → from 9 bodies for 1st RBMP to 15 for 2nd RBMP
  - French Guiana → from 12 bodies for 1st RBMP to 2 for 2nd RBMP
  - Reunion Island → from 16 bodies for 1st RBMP to 27 for 2nd RBMP

- Created for Mayotte, new French territory since March 2011

- Retained from 1st RBMP for following River Basin Districts:
  - Sambre & Scheldt, Somme and coastal waters of the Channel and the North Sea
  - Rhine & Meuse
  - Adour, Garonne, Dordogne, Charente and coastal waters of Aquitania
  - Seine and Normandy coastal waters
  - Guadeloupe & Martinique

A methodology that benefits from BDLISA

1. Cross-referencing between initial WFD groundwater bodies and BDLISA units

   - First map matching between groundwater bodies and local and/or regional BDLISA units (not an unique result in most cases) → good matching for basement, volcanic and heavily folded domains, poor matching for alluvial and sedimentary basins because of different vertical overlays between the two reference systems.
   - Establishing a correlation table between groundwater bodies and local and/or regional BDLISA units through hydro litho-historical descriptions.

2. Differentiation of limit origins for each groundwater bodies

   - Cartographic analysis to differentiate various types of limits as they can inherit from SAGE, from the former hydrogeological reference system BDRHFV1, from surficial water basin limits etc. (see illustration)

3. Replacement of “hydrogeological” limits by the BDLISA unit limits

   - Adjustment of GWBs limits corresponding to the aquifers delineation from the former hydrogeological reference system BDRHFV1, in accordance to the corresponding BDLISA units as defined in the correlation table.
   - Archiving modifications made on the groundwater body boundaries.

4. Digitalization of Groundwater bodies based on the improved selected limits

   - Manual reconstruction of each groundwater body by combination of their new associated limit.

5. Other adjustments...

   - Taking into account strong heterogeneity of pressures or quantitative/qualitative state inside of one single groundwater body.
   - ... based on regional consultation meetings.

6. Verification of the new reference system consistency

   - Checking of the topological consistency, detection of anomalies, correction of artifacts in order to maintain the general homogeneity of the national GWB repository.
   - Checking of the association between each new groundwater body and each water well that belong to the WFD monitoring network.

References

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Who’s doing what regarding WFD Groundwater bodies delineation?
- Coordinator: MEED (French Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development) & ONEMA (French National Agency for Water and Aquatic Environments)
- Fullfillment: the Water Agencies (5 River Basin Districts)
- Technical support for methodology, harmonization and synthesis: BRGM (French Geological Survey)

For more information…
All the digitalized information and associated database may be accessed at www.sandre.eaufrance.fr
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