

5.8 Tip Sheet: How can I find a parameter code number or name?

- Several options for parameter code number or name queries are available on the [Support Files \(Section 3.6\)](#) menu option of QWDATA.

Option 2 on the [Support Files](#) menu gives you the option to retrieve parameter code information by parameter code or parameter name:

```
Parameter Name and Code Retrieval Routine
Options for Retrieving Parameter Name or Code:
  1 -- Retrieve/Select a Parameter by Code
  2 -- Retrieve/Select a Parameter by Name
  0 -- Quit
What do you want to do (0-2)?
```

Choosing option 1 results in the following system prompt:

```
Enter 5-character parameter code
```

At this point, you may enter a 5-digit parameter code and the parameter name will be shown on the screen.

Choosing option 2 results in the following system prompt:

```
Enter parameter name:
```

At this point, you may enter a parameter name, partial name, or string of letters. All parameter names that begin with the character string or contain the character string entered will be displayed to the terminal.

- The same information for parameter code numbers or name queries can be obtained from the UNIX prompt by use of the **show_parm** script, available at: <http://wwwdcascr.wr.usgs.gov/~dkyancey/showparm.html>

The **show_parm** script has the following options:

```
show_parm [-l] { parm1 } { parm2 }... { parmN}
```

```
or: show_parm [-l] [-f {parm_file}] || -k {keyword}]
```

Where:

-l indicates that the output will include the parameter long name

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-f indicates that the list of parameter codes will come from a file, and parm_file is the input file that contains a list of parameter codes, one per line, beginning in column one.

-k {word} = search parameter code by keyword

Additional information including a manual page on this script is available at the URL included above.