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Listening to the noise: what's in your data besides data?

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Reclamation depends upon data. The quality and acceptability of reclamation depends upon the comparison between baseline and reclaimed datasets. It is imperative that the people who plan monitoring, people who collect data, and people who evaluate that data understand exactly what the data is and what it is not. All data includes errors. There is no way to eliminate errors entirely. Keeping the errors to within an acceptable range, and recognizing unusual effects when they come up, makes data analysis possible.

Regular training and clear operating procedures can minimize human error. Continuity and consistency will ensure that reclamation data, often collected years or decades later, is legitimately comparable to baseline.