

General

Informal Memo

4/12/94

To: Denny Armstrong, ESH-8

From: Ernie Gladney, ESH-8 *EG*

Subject: Risks associated with co-located sampling/decontamination activities

You requested my sharing my experience with cross contamination risk associated with co-located activities. This is a common problem when matrices of widely differing composition levels are handled in the same laboratory or facility. There is a significant risk of compromising our foodstuff sampling effort by having soil sampling/decontamination activities conducted inside the same preparation laboratory. We are particularly vulnerable for elements and radionuclides that occur in much higher concentrations in the soils, e.g. tritium, uranium, thorium, cadmium, mercury and lead.

I recommend that these incompatible activities be separated into locations that are physically isolated. Furthermore, it would be advisable to establish a policy that no potentially contaminated sampling equipment, protective clothing, etc. be permitted in OH-1, and that all decontamination activities take place in specified external locations.

xc: Ken Hargis
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