

General


Los Alamos
NATIONAL LABORATORY
memorandum

*Risk Reduction & Environmental Stewardship Division
Water Quality & Hydrology Group
(RRES-WQH)*

To/MS: SWAT Team Members
From/MS: Steve Veenis, RRES-WQH, MS K497 ✓
Phone/Fax: 7-0013/5-9344
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**SUBJECT: FINAL SURFACE WATER ASSESSMENT TEAM MEETING MINUTES FOR
SEPTEMBER 25, 2002**

1.0 PURPOSE

The Surface Water Site Assessment Team (SWAT) continues an effort to review the Laboratory's Storm Water Monitoring Program for the Multi-Sector General Permit. A Data Quality Objective (DQO) process will be used to determine the adequacy of the data collected by the Laboratory's monitoring network. The SWAT role is to provide a review of Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP) Sector K – which includes Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs), station locations, analytical methods, Benchmark Parameters and approved monitoring waivers and to make recommendations on how to improve the overall approach.

2.0 DISCUSSION

2.1 Sediment Sampling

Much of the focus was on whether or how to monitor for suspended sediments. Key points included the following:

- All parties recognize that sediment sampling has potential value as an indicator parameter. However, the role that sediment sampling would play in MSGP compliance, as well as its potential impact on other LANL programs such as the ER program, need to be carefully considered.
- There are different ways to measure suspended sampling. Total Suspended Solids (TSS) involves shaking the bottle, then drawing/pouring the water; some sediment resettles as this is happening. With Suspended Sediment Concentration (SSC)/Total Suspended Load (TSL), one pours the entire water volume through a filter. There are potential consequences to this difference. For instance, SSC values are typically higher and thus not directly comparable to a TSS value. Also, if we use a single-stage sampler, we would not be able to measure SSC plus other benchmarks, whereas we could do this with TSS.



- The way in which suspended sediment data would be used needs to be determined. It could be used to detect trends and evaluate whether BMPs are working. Alternatively, it could be compared to a (to be determined) benchmark value; however, a typical wet-climate benchmark such as 100 mg/L would not be meaningful in the LANL context. Everyone agreed that if SSC/TSS or TSS measurements were collected, the data would not be required to be submitted as part of the annual Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs).

By the end of the meeting, two options were under consideration:

1. Start monitoring runoff from SWMUs by focusing only on Sector K benchmarks. If benchmark parameters are exceeded, then add SSC/TSS or TSS sampling as a means of evaluating the problem and identifying potential SWPPP improvements.
2. Start monitoring at SWMUs by focusing only on SSC/TSS or TSS measurements, with the Sector K benchmarks measured at downstream watershed stations. If SSC/TSS or TSS values suggest a problem, consider expanding the monitoring at SWMUs to other parameters.

2.2 Single-Stage Samplers

Discussion continued on the use of single-stage samplers for monitoring at SWMUs. This appears to be feasible and economical, though the group would like to learn more by talking to a vendor representative and/or watching a video. This application of single-stage samplers is a refinement of the traditional approach, which is to place them in perennial streams or lakes.

2.3 Decision Logic

Much of the discussion pointed to the need for a decision logic to drive process endpoints such as where and how to sample, when to stop sampling at a given location, or what to do when sampling indicates a potential problem. We will begin drafting a strawman logic diagram for discussion at future meetings.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 16th in White Rock at the DOE/Oversight Bureau offices. Any exceptions taken to these minutes should be brought to the attention of the Steve Veenis (667-0013), within five (5) working days of receipt.

Participants:

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SV/tml

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