

How to Plan Projects Using the Uniform Federal Policy for Quality Assurance Project Plans (UFP QAPP) – Transcript

Scene 3: Scoping Meeting – Decision Statements and Sampling Design

Speakers: Don Fry, Holly Swanson, Karen Runyon, and Michael Regala

Don Fry: Okay, break is over, folks. Welcome back. We do have a lot to cover today. So before the break we were talking about how after the excavation that we were going to make sure that we meet the State soil cleanup levels, right? So how about if we take some time now, let's go over those proposed decision statements? I think it's crucial that we have to do that and make sure that we're all on the same page before we move forward.

To help facilitate our understanding of the decision logic, Holly is going to walk us through a flowchart, okay? Keep in mind that this flowchart will actually be included in the QAPP along with if, then statements. Holly, will you walk us through the flowchart, please?

Holly Swanson: So we'll be excavating to a depth of one foot in areas one, two, three, and four.

Michael Regala: Holly, can you explain why the decision was made to excavate to one foot?

Holly Swanson: Sure. From the information from the RI it was fairly clear that the extent of the contamination didn't go below a few inches, so we figured that by excavating down to one foot we should be able to accomplish the goals of this remediation.

Michael Regala: Okay, I understand.

Don Fry: So are we all in agreement then on that flowchart box?

Karen Runyon: Yes.

Michael Regala: Right.

Holly Swanson: So we'll be taking confirmation samples. We'll be taking one discrete sample every 500 square feet. We'll assess whether the results are greater than the preliminary remediation goals or less than the PRGs. If the results are below PRGs we will go ahead and backfill, and if they are above PRG we'll remove another six inches and then backfill.

Karen Runyon: What if the results are equal to the PRGs?

Holly Swanson: Well, then we'll proceed with backfilling.

Karen Runyon: I'm not comfortable with that. I would rather you excavate six more inches if the results are equal to the PRG.

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Michael Regala: So would I.

Don Fry: We can agree to that. Yes, that makes sense.

Michael Regala: Can we talk about how you'll begin collecting confirmation samples?

Holly Swanson: Sure. As I said earlier, we'll be taking a discrete sample every 500 square feet within each area.

Michael Regala: Can I make a recommendation?

Holly Swanson: Okay, so we'll prepare one five-point composite sample from each 500 square foot decision unit within each of the four areas. Is this the design that you'd like to see?

Karen Runyon: That looks okay to me. What do you think?

Michael Regala: I agree. It's consistent with State regs.

Holly Swanson: Okay.

Don Fry: Okay, well, then that sounds like we're all in agreement. Holly, let's be sure that we capture that sampling design, and I want to make sure that we update the draft worksheets to reflect what we've agreed to today, okay? And then let's be sure to check all the other worksheets, as well, to see if there's any other worksheets that will be affected by this decision.

Holly Swanson: Okay, I'll do that. Okay, back to the flowchart.

Karen Runyon: Now, I'm assuming that you'll excavate the extra six inches in the entire area if any sample has contamination that exceeds the PRGs?

Don Fry: No, Karen, not exactly. See, if any of these sample results are greater than or equal to the PRGs then we will excavate another six inches only in the affected decision unit. This is how we typically address the situation. Do we have any issues with that?

Karen Runyon: No.

Don Fry: Okay, Holly, let's make a note of that, too, then, all right?

Holly Swanson: Okay, all right. All right, so back to the flowchart and the decision tree. If it's below PRGs we're done and we can backfill. If not, we will remove an additional six inches of that soil that showed elevated levels, then we'll backfill that area.

Michael Regala: No, I would want additional confirmation sampling to make sure all the contamination was removed. What about the potential for burrowing receptors? I live only about 10 miles from the site, and I've got gophers and moles in my yards, would they potentially be affected?

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Don Fry: Well, you know, Michael, we need to get back out in the field before the weather gets bad. And we're pretty sure that removing the first foot will take care of all the contamination. So why don't we do this, if there are decision units where we have to excavate that extra six inches, instead of backfilling right away why don't we have all of our ecological risk experts talk and decide whether there are potential receptors?

Michael Regala: Okay, that sounds good to me.

Don Fry: Yes.

Karen Runyon: Can you remind me of what we're going to be analyzing for in these samples?

Holly Swanson: That's a good question. We're going to be looking for lead, mercury, 44DDD, 44DDE, as well as selenium. I don't know if you noticed in the worksheets, we did have an issue associated with the selenium analysis. It appears as though we can't meet the project quantitation limits for the selenium with the proposed method. It's an issue that we've identified earlier, and we are concerned about it.

Michael Regala: But haven't you talked to your chemist about this?

Holly Swanson: Yes, we did, our chemist thinks that we are getting some kind of matrix interference from the soil that's affecting the selenium. He's proposed – let me see, the method of standard addition to resolve the issue.

Karen Runyon: I'm not a chemist, so I really would like to have your chemist get in touch with our chemist and be able to go over that approach.

Don Fry: Okay, I agree, that's a good idea. We can work on setting that up. I'd like to shoot for making that happen within the next two weeks.

Holly Swanson: So, Karen, could you give me the contact information for your chemist?

Michael Regala: I'd like to have Joe Smith from our shop be a part of that discussion, too. And when the chemists are having this call I want them to confirm that whatever laboratory is used has the appropriate credentials.

Don Fry: That's a good idea.

Karen Runyon: What is your schedule for when you plan on being in the field?

Don Fry: Well, before winter, hopefully. After today's meeting we hopefully will have a draft QAPP in your hands within a month, right, Holly?

Holly Swanson: Uh-huh.

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Karen Runyon: Okay, I just wanted to make sure that there was adequate time after you get the QAPP to turn it around so you don't run up against your deadline going into the field.

Holly Swanson: Well, one thing I wanted to mention, the draft worksheets that we provide didn't address the sampling design that we're discussing now. But my company has an SOP that addresses composite sampling. I'll be sure to review that SOP and make sure that it's consistent with what we agreed to, and then I'll include it in the updated QAPP.

Karen Runyon: Okay, sounds good.

Don Fry: Right, right. Well, I think it's time for another break. All in agreement?

Karen Runyon: Yes.

Michael Regala: Yes.