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

Scene 4: Scoping Meeting – Quality Control Samples

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

Don Fry: Thank you, everyone. Welcome back. Holly, thank you for rewriting our final decision statement.

So do we all agree that the sampling design we decided upon will allow us to evaluate our decision statements? Do we need to change the decision statements or anything in the sampling design at this point?

Michael Regala: Where are we? What did we decide on?

Don Fry: Holly, could you just give us a quick recap of what we have accomplished so far?

Holly Swanson: Sure. We're going to excavate a foot of soil in each of areas one, two, three, and four. Based on previous sampling results we believe that we're being fairly conservative and think that we'll be able to remove all of the contamination.

We're going to take confirmation samples in each of the four areas. The team had a lengthy discussion on sampling design for these confirmation samples. We're going to grid-out each area into 500 square foot decision units, and collect a five point composite sample in each of those decision units.

If any of the samples equals or exceeds PRGs an additional six inches will be removed from that decision unit where the elevated sample was collected. At that point, we'll consult with the ecological risk experts to determine if there are burrowing receptors in the area.

Don Fry: So is everyone in agreement with this?

Michael Regala: Yes.

Karen Runyon: Well, I like where we are, but I can't concur until we discuss the quality control of samples that you plan on taking.

Don Fry: Holly, can you talk us through the quality control samples?

Holly Swanson: Sure. The QC samples are consistent with the previous investigation. We're going to be collecting –

Michael Regala: How did you decide what QC samples to collect in the previous investigation?

Holly Swanson: We used the UFP QAPP QA QC compendium.

Michael Regala: What's that?

Karen Runyon: This is a document that we've found to be very useful in previous projects. It gives guidelines on what type of QC samples are appropriate, depending on the phase of the investigation. We've used it as a guideline here. At times we've had to modify recommendations due to certain requirements, but in most cases it's been pretty good at putting us on the right track as far as the types of QC samples we should be collecting.

Holly Swanson: Great. So for the field sampling we will be collecting a number of QC samples. We'll be collecting matrix spike, matrix spike duplicants, some, let's see, field links. And, let's see, some equipment [blanks]. As well as some field duplicates.

Karen Runyon: Now how often are QC samples going to be collected? And how are they going to be associated with the sampling areas? In particular, will there be a set of QC samples for each of the sampling areas?

Holly Swanson: We weren't planning on doing that.

Karen Runyon: I really think there should be a set of QC samples for each of the areas.

Don Fry: I'm okay, I'm okay with that, Holly. Let's make a note of that.

Michael Regala: Now, what will we do if any of the QC samples don't meet the criteria?

Holly Swanson: Well, if any of the QC samples don't meet the criteria it could affect our confidence in the data. We would address it in the data usability report and discuss it with the team.

Don Fry: So we all can live with those QC samples, is that right, we're in agreement there? Good, good.

Holly Swanson: Great.