

Survey

ISCORS Sewage Sludge
Subcommittee Public Meeting
December 13, 1999

Survey Focus

- Respond to '94 GAO Report
- Replace earlier planned EPA effort
- Provide a better understanding of the potential for problems in sewage sludge/ash
- Support development of final POTW guidance document
- Not geared to supporting rulemaking; any future rule-making would require additional data collection efforts

Survey Approval

- June 1998 -- OMB approval for survey
 - 2 POTW representatives to be added to Subcommittee
 - focus on categories most likely to have elevated levels (e.g., w/licenseses that can discharge, high NORM areas, incinerators, landfill leachates)
 - voluntary participation by POTWs; sample data from individual POTWs to be confidential
 - questionnaires to ~600 POTWs; samples from ~300 POTWs, 25 @ month
 - 3 years to complete survey effort

Preliminary Survey Effort

- May 1999 -- results of nine test site survey issued as “*Jt. NRC/EPA Sewage Sludge Radiological Survey: Survey Design & Test Site Results*” (EPA 832-R-99-900)

[www.epa.gov/radiation/tenorm/docs/sludgereport.htm]

- trial run on coordination of effort, sample handling, shipping, counting procedures, address between lab variability & data handling
- used normal environmental sample/analysis procedures; all samples received gamma spec and gross alpha & beta analyses; all samples also received isotope-specific analyses (only ~10% will in full survey)

Status of Survey

- July 1999 -- questionnaires sent to 631 POTWs
 - included joint letter from AMSA & WEF
 - preceded by NBP Guidance Document for pretreatment coordinators and AMSA Alert
 - emphasized POTWs w/licenseses that can discharge, w/incinerators, located in high NORM areas, receiving landfill leachates or drinking water treatment residuals, serving SUPERFUND sites, recommended by states

Status of Survey

- 377 completed surveys returned to date; data being entered into LANL database
- Sept 1999 -- initial group of 25 POTWs sent sampling kits
- Oct 1999 -- 2nd group of 25 POTWs sent sampling kits
- Nov 1999 -- 3rd group of 25 POTWs sent sampling kits

Schedule

- Dec 2000 -- Complete Survey effort
- Summer 2001 -- Issue Final Survey Report