

Information Paper on The Uniform Federal Policy for Quality Assurance Project Plans (UFP-QAPP)

Introduction:

Reliable environmental sampling and testing data are necessary for informed decision-making in such areas as determining permit compliance and in both selecting and completing remedial actions. Making correct decisions requires data that are both appropriate (the right type) and reliable (of the necessary quality). A Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) is a comprehensive project planning document that describes in detail all project activities associated with the collection of environmental data. QAPPs have been in use at Federal facilities for many years although the requirements for their content and format differed across the EPA Regions.

Purpose and Benefits:

The *Uniform Federal Policy for Quality Assurance Project Plans (UFP-QAPP)* was developed to provide a single, consensus-based framework and approach for consistently implementing the project-specific environmental sampling and testing requirements at cleanup sites across Federal agencies. The UFP-QAPP was prepared by the Intergovernmental Data Quality Task Force (IDQTF) with participation by the DoD Environmental Data Quality Workgroup (EDQW). It is based on the national standard, *Quality Systems for Environmental Data and Technology Program (ANSI/ASQ E4-2004)* and provides specific instructions and templates for preparing QAPPs. It streamlines both preparing and reviewing QAPPs and presents an organized and systematic process for implementing quality assurance and quality control procedures to ensure collected data will be suitable for their intended uses. Although initially developed for hazardous waste programs, the UFP-QAPP is applicable to the collection of environmental data for any Federal department, agency, or program.

By 2006 both DoD and EPA adopted the UFP-QAPP for use on at DoD installation hazardous waste sites. The draft Defense Environmental Restoration Program Manual requires Military Departments and Defense Agencies to follow the UFP-QAPP. The IDQTF and the EDQW continue to support the strengthening of the UFP-QAPP. Endorsement of the UFP-QAPP from the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials and the Environmental Council of States is welcomed to help improve the efficiencies at DoD clean-up sites.

The Intergovernmental Data Quality Task Force (IDQTF) is made up of representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of Defense (DoD), and the Department of Energy (DOE). Chaired by the Director of the Federal Facilities Restoration and Reuse Office (FFRRO), the IDQTF was established in 1997 to address issues related to the management of environmental data quality at Federal facilities. Its mission: "To document an intergovernmental quality systems beginning with hazardous waste programs."

The DoD Environmental Data Quality Workgroup (EDQW) was established in 1996. Chaired by Navy, it includes Principals (voting members) and technical representatives from all DoD Components. Its mission:

- Promote the generation of environmental data of known and documented quality
- Reduce unnecessary duplication and program costs
- Develop policy to ensure compliance with established standards
- Promote better use of