

Data Validation Summary Report
Phase B Investigation Area IV Soil
Tronox LLC
Henderson, Nevada

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Responsible Certified Environmental Manager (CEM) for this project

I hereby certify that all laboratory analytical data was generated by a laboratory certified by the NDEP for each constituent and media presented herein.

I hereby certify that I am responsible for the services described in this document and for the preparation of this document. The services described in this document have been provided in a manner consistent with the current standards of the profession and, to the best of my knowledge, comply with all applicable federal, state and local statutes, regulations and ordinances.



Susan M. Crowley, CEM 1428 Exp.:03/08/11
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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Acronym	Meaning
%D	Percent Difference
BRC	Basic Remediation Company
CEM	Certified Environmental Manager
CLP	Contract Laboratory Program
DOE	Department of Energy
DQI	Data Quality Indicator
DRO	Diesel Range Organics
DUP	Duplicate
EDD	Electronic Data Deliverable
EDXA	Energy Dispersive X-ray Analysis
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
GC/MS	Gas Chromatograph/Mass Spectrometer
GRO	Gasoline Range Organic
ICP	Inductively Coupled Plasma
LCS	Laboratory Control Sample
LCSD	Laboratory Control Sample Duplicate
LDC	Laboratory Data Consultants
MARLAP	Multi-Agency Radiological Laboratory Analytical Protocol Manual
MDL	Method Detection Limit
MS/MSD	Matrix Spike/Matrix Spike Duplicate
NDEP	Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
OCP	Organochlorine Pesticide
ORO	Oil Range Organics
PARCCS	Precision, Accuracy, Representativeness, Comparability, Completeness, and Sensitivity
PCB	Polychlorinated Biphenyl
PQL	Practical Quantitation Limit
QAPP	Quality Assurance Project Plan
QC	Quality Control
R	Rejected
RPD	Relative Percent Difference
SAED	Selected Area Electron Diffraction
SAP	Sampling and Analysis Plan
SDG	Sample Delivery Group
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SPLP	Synthetic Precipitation Leaching Procedure
SQL	Sample Quantitation Limit
SVOC	Semivolatile Organic Compound
TOC	Total Organic Carbon
TEM	Transmission Electron Microscope
Tronox	Tronox LLC
VOC	Volatile Organic Compound



1.0 INTRODUCTION

On behalf of Tronox LLC (Tronox), Northgate Environmental Management, Inc. (Northgate) has prepared this Data Validation Summary Report to assess the validity (based on data validation) and usability (based on project objectives) of the Phase B, Area IV soil data. The Phase B Area IV Investigation was initiated by Northgate in June 2009.

Area IV soil samples were collected and analyzed in accordance with the *Revised Phase B Investigation Work Plan, Tronox LLC Facility, Henderson, Nevada, December 2008* (AECOM 2008) and the *Revised Phase B Quality Assurance Project Plan Tronox LLC Facility, Henderson, Nevada, July 2009* (AECOM and Northgate 2009). Area IV soils were collected from 54 borings resulting in the analyses of 6,004 environmental and 1,285 field quality control (QC) samples (field blank, equipment blank, field duplicate, and matrix spike [MS]/MS duplicate [MSD] analysis). Selected soil samples were analyzed by synthetic precipitation leaching procedure (SPLP). Tests with SPLP extraction fluids 2 and 3 were conducted on 254 environmental samples. The sampling and analysis summary of the 54 Area IV borings is presented in Table 1-1. Analysis as proposed in the *Revised Phase B Investigation Work Plan, Tronox LLC Facility, Henderson, Nevada, December 2008* (AECOM 2008), was completed with the following additions:

- Asbestos – Eight soil samples (RSAR5-0.0B, RSAS6-0.0B, RSAU4-0.0B, SA115-0.0B, SA147-0.0B, SA203-0.0B, SA205-0.0B, SA214-0.0B) were not collected due to asphalt or concrete, leaving no exposed soil within a 100-foot radius of the proposed location;
- Diesel Range Organics/Oil Range Organics (DRO/ORO) – One additional soil sample (RSAR3-35B) was analyzed for DRO/ORO by Method 8015;
- Organochlorine Pesticides (OCP) – The Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) proposed the collection of 26 soil samples for OCP analysis. Soils were submitted for OCPs from the top, middle, and bottom of the boring. The middle sample was extracted and held. The laboratory proceeded with the analysis of the middle sample only when OCPs were detected in the top sample, resulting in the analysis of 62 additional OCP soil samples;
- Organic Acids and Organophosphorous Pesticides (OPP) - One soil sample (RSAU5-0.5B) was not analyzed for Organic Acids by Alpha Analytical Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) E.64, Rev 5 as proposed in the Phase B Work Plan;
- Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB) congeners – The Area IV field blank (FB080309-SO) collected for PCB congeners by Method 1668A was not analyzed by the laboratory; and



- SPLP sample RSAU5-50BSPLP was not collected for the analytical suite proposed due to moisture content: alkalinity, ammonia, bromide, chlorate, chloride, cyanide, hexavalent chromium, mercury, metals, nitrate, nitrite, organic acids, organochlorine pesticides (OCP), organophosphorous pesticides (OPP), PCB congeners, PCB by Method 8082, perchlorate, total phosphate, pH, radium 226 & 228, sulfate, surfactants, semivolatile organic compounds (SVOCs), total organic carbon (TOC), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), isotopic thorium, and uranium.

Laboratory analytical services were provided by the eight laboratories presented in the *Revised Phase B Investigation Work Plan, Tronox LLC Facility, Henderson, Nevada, December 2008* (AECOM 2008), and the *Revised Phase B Quality Assurance Project Plan Tronox LLC Facility, Henderson, Nevada, July 2009* (AECOM and Northgate 2009), with Columbia Analytical Services, Inc., of Rochester, New York, as the primary laboratory throughout the Phase B Investigation. Distribution of the 19 analytical groups is summarized below.

Laboratory	Location	Analytical Group(s)
Alpha Analytical	Sparks, NV	Organic Acids
Columbia Analytical Services	Houston, TX	Dioxin/Furans and PCB Congeners
Columbia Analytical Services	Kelso, WA	Metals, Chlorate, Perchlorate
Columbia Analytical Services	Rochester, NY	VOC, SVOC, Organochlorine Pesticide, PCB, Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons, Cyanide, Hexavalent Chromium, Formaldehyde, Wet Chemistry
EMSL Analytical	Westmont, NJ	Asbestos
General Engineering Laboratories	Charleston, SC	Radionuclides
PTS Laboratories, Inc.	Santa Fe Springs, CA	Geotechnical
Test America	Denver, CO	Organophosphorous Pesticide
Test America	West Sacramento, CA	Dioxin/Furans and PCB Congeners after September 9, 2009

Field samples and the associated field QC samples were logged into the laboratories in Sample Delivery Groups (SDGs). The Area IV soil data are contained in 78 soil SDGs and 25 SPLP SDGs. A complete listing of the Area IV soil samples and SDGs is presented in Table 1-2.

The analytical data were validated by Laboratory Data Consultants, Inc. (LDC) in accordance with procedures described in the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) *Data Verification and Validation Requirements – Supplement, Henderson, Nevada, April 13, 2009*, established for the BMI Plant Sites and Common Areas Projects. The association between the laboratory SDGs and LDC validation reports is presented in Table 1-3.



2.0 DATA VALIDATION PROCESS

A formal validation of the Phase B Investigation Area IV soil analytical results was performed to determine the suitability of the data for potential use in the conceptual site model, risk assessment, and other future on-site environmental assessments.

Consistent with the Phase B Work Plan (AECOM 2008), the Tronox Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP; AECOM/Northgate 2009), and NDEP Supplemental Guidance (NDEP 2009d), all of the Phase B Investigation data were validated. The Area IV soil data are contained in 78 soil SDGs and 25 SPLP SDGs. Approximately 90% of the analytical data were validated as Stage 2B and approximately 10% were validated by Stage 4 data validation procedures. EPA Stage 2B (EPA 2009) validation evaluates the following QC criteria:

- Completeness of deliverable;
- Technical holding times and sample preservation;
- Sample integrity and cooler/sample temperature at the time of laboratory receipt;
- Laboratory and field blank contamination;
- Surrogate spike recoveries;
- Tracer recoveries (radiochemical data only);
- MS/MSD recoveries and relative percent differences (RPDs);
- Laboratory duplicate RPDs;
- Laboratory control sample (LCS) recoveries; and
- Initial and continuing calibrations.

The comprehensive validation, consistent with EPA designation of Stage 4 (EPA 2009), involves in-depth review of compound identification and quantification, spot-checks of calculations, and verification of summary data against the raw data. Table 1-3 is a cross-reference of laboratory SDGs and associated validation reports. Field samples presented with shading were validated as Stage 4 (EPA 2009).

2.1 Data Deliverables

Analytical data deliverables were provided as an electronic data deliverable (EDD) version of the full data package, equivalent to a Contract Laboratory Program (CLP) deliverable (i.e., consisting of all the information required in a CLP package, including CLP-like summary forms). The electronic data packages were presented in PDF format with embedded text



wherever possible and include complete bookmarking for all forms, tables, and sections. Each data package was also delivered as an EDD.

Asbestos deliverables included sample results, a case narrative, chain-of-custody, QC summary data, sample prep data, transmission electron microscope (TEM) calibration data (chrysotile beam dose sensitivity, camera constant calibrations, crocidolite spectrum Na sensitivity, Mg-Si K-alpha peak resolvability, K factors, and detector resolution of the Mn K-alpha peak), one energy dispersive x-ray analysis (EDXA) and one selected area electron diffraction (SAED) image per asbestos type per sample, filter blank lot data (4%), lab blanks, method blanks, equipment blanks, and all analyst worksheets.

The analytical reports for all Area IV soils are presented in Appendix A. In addition to the laboratory deliverables, field information was provided to the validation staff in order to associate the field QC samples (field blanks, equipment blanks, and field duplicates) with the primary field samples prior to validation.

2.2 Validation of Analytical Deliverables

Validation of the Area IV soil data was performed by LDC using the appropriate EPA guidelines (EPA 1999, 2004, 2008, 2009) or equivalent regional EPA validation guidelines such as Region 9 Superfund Data Evaluation/Validation Guidance, R9QA/006.1 (EPA 2001), Multi-Agency Radiological Laboratory Analytical Protocols Manual (MARLAP), Department of Energy (DOE) guidance, the BMI Plant Site-Specific Supplemental Guidance on Data Validation from NDEP (NDEP 2009b, 2009c, 2009d, 2009e) and the Basic Remediation Company (BRC) SOP 40, Data Review/Validation (BRC 2009). These federal EPA guidelines, prepared for CLP data, were adapted to reflect the analytical methods and measurement quality objectives established for the Phase B Investigation methods and the guidance provided by NDEP. LDC validation reports for Area IV soils are presented in Appendix B.

Analytical data deficiencies were qualified using the data validation qualifiers in Table 2-1 and project-specific reason codes shown in Table 2-2. The finalized NDEP EDD (NDEP 2009f) for the Area IV soil is presented in Appendix C.



3.0 DATA VALIDATION RESULTS

The data validation qualifiers and reason codes were used to indicate all the data in the database where results were qualified as a result of validation. This information was sorted by the QC review elements listed below:

- Holding times and sample preservation;
- Initial and continuing calibrations;
- Serial dilution;
- Laboratory blanks/equipment blanks/field blanks;
- LCS/Laboratory Control Sample Duplicate (LCSD) results;
- MS/MSD results;
- Surrogate recoveries;
- Internal standard performance;
- Laboratory duplicate results;
- Field duplicate results; and
- Quantitation problems.

Tables 3-1 through 3-12 present the qualified results based on QC deficiencies identified during the validation process. Reason codes for each qualifier assignment have been provided in each table. Where available, a numerical data quality indicator (DQI) result value and acceptance criteria for that value have been added to the tables in columns to the right of the reason codes per NDEP's request. No QC problems were identified that resulted in qualification of results based on mass spectrometer tuning, gas chromatograph/mass spectrometer (GC/MS) performance checks, compound identification, or peak integration. A summary of the rejected results is presented in Table 3-12. The data validation summary tables are sorted by Sample ID and SDG to assist the data user in locating the associated data validation memoranda. The data validation memorandum presented in Appendix B discusses the application of qualifiers in detail. Tables 3-1 through 3-12 are provided to NDEP on CD as Excel spreadsheets that can be re-sorted to assist the data user in locating validation information for any particular sample, SDG, method, or analyte.



3.1 Holding Times and Sample Preservation

Sample preservation and analytical holding times are evaluated to assure that the sample integrity is intact for accurate sample preparation and analysis. Sample preservation and analytical hold time are presented for each method of analysis in Table B-1 of the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP; AECOM and Northgate 2009). Holding time exceedances can cause loss of sample constituents due to biodegradation, precipitation, volatilization, and chemical degradation. In accordance with EPA guidance (USEPA 2004, 2008), sample results for organic and non-metal analyses that were performed after the method holding time but less than two times the method holding time were qualified as estimated (J- or UJ). Sample results for analyses that were performed after two times the method holding time were qualified as rejected (R). Inorganic hold time exceedances were qualified as estimated J- or R. Less than 1% (0.21%) of the Area IV soil and SPLP sample data were qualified due to hold time and preservation exceedances, as presented in Table 3-1.

Several short hold time methods – (24 hours) hexavalent chromium and (48 hours) pH, nitrate, nitrite, and VOC/8260 – were qualified as estimated (J/UJ). One organochlorine pesticide (OCP) was rejected (R) for analysis performed after two times the method holding time.

Four cyanide SPLP extracts were rejected (R) for not adjusting the pH \geq 12 by the laboratory. Several VOC field samples, trip blanks, equipment blanks and field blanks were qualified as estimated due to headspace identified in the sample containers. No other preservation exceedances were identified.

3.2 Initial and Continuing Calibration

Instrument performance was evaluated during the review of initial and continuing calibration. The following target analytes exhibited poor response: Method 8141 naled, Method 8260 acetone, t-butyl alcohol, hexachlorobutadiene, Method 8270 bis (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate, di-n-octyl phthalate and surfactants. Less than 3% (2.30%) of the Area IV soil and SPLP sample data were qualified as estimated (J/UJ) due to calibration deficiencies, as presented in Table 3-2. No data were rejected.

3.3 Serial Dilution

Sample matrix interference was exhibited by several target analytes. Beryllium and copper resulted in a serial dilution exceedance greater than 2x the acceptance limit of 10% Difference (%D). In accordance with EPA guidance (EPA 2004), the associated results were qualified as



estimated (J). Less than 3% (2.22%) of the Area IV soil and SPLP sample data were qualified due to serial dilution exceedances, as presented in Table 3-3. No data were rejected.

3.4 Laboratory Blanks/Equipment Blanks/Field Blanks

The Area IV soil data were assessed using the following blanks: field blanks, equipment blanks, trip blanks, and laboratory method blanks. Equipment blanks were collected at a frequency of 10% during the Phase B Investigation, and one field blank was collected for each investigative Area per matrix. Data were evaluated and qualified in accordance with EPA guidance (EPA 2004, 2008), NDEP Supplemental Guidance on Data Validation for the BMI Plant Sites and Common Areas Projects (NDEP 2009c,d,e), and the BRC SOP 40, Data Review Validation, May 7, 2009 (BRC 2009). Approximately 4% (4.12%) of the Area IV soil and SPLP sample data were qualified based on blank contamination, as presented in Table 3-4.

3.5 LCS/LCSD Results

Laboratory control samples and laboratory control sample duplicates were used to assess laboratory accuracy. Area IV soil samples were evaluated in accordance with the BRC SOP 40, Data Review Validation, May 7, 2009. All data exceedances were qualified as estimated (J/UJ). Less than 3% (2.33%) of the Area IV soil and SPLP sample data were qualified due to laboratory control sample exceedances, as presented in Table 3-5. No data were rejected.

3.6 MS/MSD Results

Matrix spike and matrix spike duplicate samples consist of aliquots of environmental samples spiked with a subset of target compounds. MS/MSD samples monitor potential interference from the site-specific sample matrix and its effect on target compounds. Additional field sample aliquots were collected at a frequency of 5% during the Phase B Investigation sampling to evaluate site-specific matrix interference. Samples were evaluated using the EPA guidance (EPA 2004, 2008), NDEP Supplemental Guidance on Data Validation for the BMI Plant Sites and Common Areas Projects (NDEP 2009c,d,e), the BRC SOP (BRC 2009), and professional judgment.

Data were qualified as estimated (J/UJ) for MS and/or MSD precision and accuracy failure outside of the acceptance limit criteria. Less than 4% (3.21%) of the Area IV soil and SPLP sample data were qualified due to MS/MSD exceedances, as presented in Table 3-6. No data were rejected.



3.7 Surrogate Recoveries

Surrogate and tracer recoveries were reviewed for organic and radiochemistry methods. No tracer recovery exceedances were identified. Organic data were evaluated using the EPA guidance (EPA 2004, 2008), NDEP Supplemental Guidance on Data Validation for the BMI Plant Sites and Common Areas Projects (NDEP 2009c,d,e), and the BRC SOP (BRC 2009). All data were usable and qualified as estimated (J/UJ) for surrogate recovery exceedances in Method 8260 volatile organic compounds (VOCs), Method 8015 diesel/gasoline/oil range organics, Method 8081/8082 organochlorine pesticide and PCB and Method 8141 organophosphorous pesticides. Approximately 1% (0.74%) of the Area IV soil and SPLP sample data were qualified due to surrogate recovery exceedances, as presented in Table 3-7. No data were rejected.

3.8 Internal Standard Performance

Internal standards were prepared for certain organic and inductively coupled plasma (ICP)/MS analyses by adding compounds similar to target compounds of interest to sample aliquots. Internal standards are used in the quantitation of target compounds in the sample or sample extract. Internal standards were reviewed using the EPA guidance (EPA 2008), NDEP Supplemental Guidance on Data Validation for the BMI Plant Sites and Common Areas Projects (NDEP 2009c,d,e), and the BRC SOP (BRC 2009). All data were usable and qualified as estimated (J/UJ) for internal standard exceedances in Method 8260 volatile organic compounds (VOCs), Method 8290 dioxin/furan and Method 1668 PCB congeners. Less than 1% (0.43%) of the Area IV soil and SPLP sample data were qualified due to internal standard performance exceedances, as presented in Table 3-8. No data were rejected.

3.9 Laboratory Duplicate Results

Laboratory duplicate analysis involves the preparation and analysis of an additional aliquot of a field sample. Results from duplicate sample analyses measure laboratory precision as well as homogeneity of contaminants in the field matrix. The relative percent difference (RPD) of the duplicate results were evaluated in accordance with EPA guidance (EPA 2004, 2005), NDEP Supplemental Guidance (NDEP 2009c,d,e), and the BRC SOP (BRC 2009). Results were qualified as estimated (J/UJ). Less than 3% (2.88%) of the Area IV soil and SPLP sample data were qualified due to laboratory duplicate RPD exceedances, as presented in Table 3-9. No data were rejected.



3.10 Field Duplicate Results

Field duplicates are used to evaluate sampling technique precision and homogeneity of the sample matrix. Field duplicates were collected at a frequency of 10% during the Phase B Investigation. In accordance with the Tronox QAPP (AECOM and Northgate 2009), NDEP Supplemental Guidance (NDEP 2009c,d,e), and the BRC SOP (BRC 2009), the precision goal for field duplicate analyses was ± 50 percent RPD. If the field duplicate RPD exceeds the 50 percent limit, non-detected sample results shall be qualified as estimated (UJ) at the sample quantitation limit (SQL) and detected results shall be qualified as estimated (J). The RPD will be calculated using the reporting limit for non-detected sample results. Similar to analytical duplicates, this limit does not apply when the result for either the sample or its duplicate is less than five times the practical quantitation limit (PQL). For this situation, the absolute value of the PQL is to be used as the control limit. Field duplicate exceedances were qualified as estimated (J/UJ). Less than 1% (0.34%) of the Area IV soil and SPLP sample data were qualified due to field duplicate exceedances, as presented in Table 3-10. No data were rejected.

3.11 Quantitation Problems

Area IV soil results that were qualified based on quantitation issues are presented in Table 3-10. Results were qualified using method-specific criteria and EPA guidance (EPA 2004, 2008). Data for Method 8082 PCBs, Method 8290 dioxin/furan and Method 1668A PCB congeners were qualified as estimated (J/UJ) for greater than 40 percent difference during second column confirmation, coeluting isomers, chlorodiphenyl ether interference or an exceedance of the calibration range. Approximately 1% (1.15%) of the Area IV soil and SPLP sample data were qualified due to sample quantitation issues. No data were rejected.



4.0 EVALUATION OF QUALITY INDICATORS

Data quality indicators of precision, accuracy, representativeness, comparability, completeness, and sensitivity (PARCCS) were used to verify that sampling and analytical systems used in support of project activities are effective and the quality of the data generated for the project is appropriate for making decisions affecting future activities. This section discusses the DQIs for the Area IV Soil Phase B Investigation dataset. DQIs address the field and analytical data quality aspects as they affect uncertainties in the data collected for site characterization and risk assessment. The PARCCS parameters definition and assessment are presented in the Tronox Revised Phase B QAPP (AECOM/Northgate 2009), and the Project Plan (BRC/ERM 2008). All data not meeting the established PARCCS criteria were qualified during the validation process using the guidelines presented in the Tronox QAPP (AECOM/Northgate 2009), National Functional Guidelines (EPA 2004, 2005, 2008), BRC Validation SOP (BRC 2009), each analytical method employed, and professional judgment.

4.1 Precision

Precision is the measure of agreement among repeated measurements of the same property under identical or substantially similar conditions. Field precision was assessed through the collection and measurement of field duplicates and expressed as the RPD of the sample and field duplicate pair results. The assessment of field duplicate precision is discussed in Section 3.10 of this report, and is listed on Table 3-10. In general, field duplicate precision was acceptable for all analytes. No data were rejected.

Laboratory precision evaluates DQIs such as calibration, surrogates, MS/MSD, duplicate (DUP), LCS/LCSD and interference check samples previously discussed in Section 3 of this report. All laboratory precision was acceptable with exception of those noted in Sections 3.5, 3.6, and 3.9.

4.2 Accuracy

Accuracy is the degree of agreement between an observed value and an accepted reference or true value. Laboratory accuracy was assessed during the validation using the recoveries of following QC parameters:

- Holding times and sample temperatures;
- Calibration;
- LCS percent recovery;
- MS/MSD percent recovery (organics);



- Serial dilution recovery (inorganics);
- Surrogate spike recovery; and
- Blank sample results.

Accuracy was evaluated for each of the DQIs in Sections 3.1 through 3.7. Evaluation of the Stage 4 QC elements that contribute to accuracy – such as mass spectrometer tuning, compound or element identification, peak integration and mass spectral matches, and calculation/transcription verifications – did not result in the qualification or rejection of any data points during validation.

4.3 Representativeness

Representativeness is a qualitative parameter defined by the degree to which data accurately and precisely represents a characteristic of a population, parameter variations at a sampling point, or a process or environmental condition. There is no formula for evaluating representativeness. Aspects of representativeness addressed during validation include the review of sample collection information in the chain-of-custody documentation, conformity of laboratory analyses to Work Plan intentions, adherence of the documented laboratory procedures to method requirements, and completeness of the laboratory data packages. Most of the issues identified during this evaluation did not result in the qualification of laboratory data but did involve resubmittal of data from the laboratories to correct problems that were discovered during the validation process.

4.4 Completeness

Completeness is a measure of the amount of valid data obtained from a measurement system, compared to the amount expected under normal conditions. “Normal conditions” are defined as the conditions expected if the program specific work plan was implemented as proposed.

Field completeness is defined as the percentage of samples actually collected versus those intended to be collected per the Work Plan. The goal stated in the QAPP for this project was greater than 90% field completeness. A comparison of the Work Plan sample tables with the database sample IDs indicates that actual field completeness was 99.93%, exceeding the goal established for the project. Field completeness was assessed using the total sample locations scheduled in the Work Plan compared to actual number submitted for analysis.

Laboratory completeness is defined as percentage of valid data points versus the total expected from the laboratory analyses. Valid data are defined as all the data points judged to be usable



(i.e., not rejected as a result of the validation process). The objective stated in the QAPP for this project was greater than 95% laboratory completeness. Actual laboratory completeness was 100% on the basis of sample analysis (i.e., all requested analyses were performed and reported by the laboratories), and 99.94% completeness based on valid data.

4.5 Comparability

Comparability is a qualitative expression of the measure of confidence that two or more data sets may contribute to a common analysis. Comparability of data within the investigation was maximized by using standard methods for sampling and analysis, reporting data, and data validation.

4.6 Sensitivity

Sensitivity is the capability of a method to discriminate an actual deflection or response above instrument noise. For the EPA methods employed in this project, sensitivity is measured by the Method Detection Limit (MDL) and PQL. Both nominal MDLs and PQLs were provided by the laboratories in the laboratory data packages and were verified during validation. MDLs in general were adjusted for each Area IV soil sample to include the necessary dilution factors, preparation factors, and dry-weight factors of an individual sample as the SQL. The sensitivity requirements were based on the laboratory's ability to detect and report consistent and reliable limits.



5.0 CONCLUSIONS

One hundred percent of the laboratory data for the Phase B Investigation Area IV soil were validated using standardized guidelines and procedures recommended by EPA and NDEP. Based on the validated data, 99.94% of the results for Area IV Soil were determined usable and considered valid for all decision-making purposes.

A subset of the laboratory results was qualified during validation, and those results are summarized in Tables 3-1 through 3-11. Qualified data are grouped by QC deficiency. A summary of Area IV soil rejected data are presented as Table 3-12. Less than 1% of the data were rejected. Data qualifiers and qualifier reason codes are presented as Table 2-1 and 2-2, respectively.

All the qualified results were evaluated with respect to the data quality indicators and compared to the QAPP and Work Plan goals. Details of this evaluation are discussed in Section 4 of this report. Based on the results of data validation, actual laboratory completeness was 100% on the basis of sample analysis, and 99.94% completeness based on valid data. The overall goals for data quality were achieved for the Phase B Investigation Area IV soils.



6.0 REFERENCES

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