

## The Manager's Role in Assuring Quality Data: Overview of the Uniform Federal Policy for Quality Assurance Project Plans – Transcript

Man 1: So, Billy, this is what a real live hazardous waste site looks like. I've been working this site for years. I'm an expert, so if you've got any questions just ask.

Man 2: Actually, I do have a few questions. I've been reading the Quality Assurance Project Plan, and some things still aren't clear to me. Like where exactly are you going to be collecting soil samples today?

Man 1: It doesn't matter. It's random sampling. I mean pick a spot. Right where you're standing is probably pretty good. Yeah, one spot is as good as the next. Oh, unless we hit that place where those PCB transformers leak. It was mentioned by some former employees. What are the odds that will happen? Sampling out here for years and we haven't hit it yet.

Man 2: So you're doing a random sampling, and you know you have a hot spot? Where I worked before we used a different sampling strategy for hot spots.

Man 1: Hey, look, every organization has a different approach. I mean there's more than one way to skin a cat. And if we don't find anything this time we'll try something different next time. Now help me unload this truck?

Man 2: Aren't you going to turn off the engine?

Man 1: No, it's hot out here. We need the air-conditioning.

Man 2: Where are the gloves?

Man 1: They're in the cab of the truck, but I never use them myself.

Man 2: I didn't find the standard operating procedure in here for sampling, so how did you do sampling in the past?

Man 1: It's pretty obvious, isn't it? I mean here's the scoop, fill up the jar.

Man 2: Like this?

Man 1: Good enough.

Man 2: Do you have any labels, field logbook, chain of custody form?

Man 1: Oh, I forgot them. Oh, here. Just write sample number one on that one, and we'll fix the paperwork when we get back to the office. You remember where you got that one? I don't remember where we get the next one.

Man 2: There's no ice in this cooler.

Man 1: Well, we'll get some ice on the way back to the office after we've collected the rest of these samples.

Man 2: Are you going to collect any quality assurance samples?

Man 1: Nope, not enough money in the budget for them.

Man 2: So what exactly are you looking for out here?

Man 1: Well, at first we were just looking for some metals. Then the State Environmental Department wanted us to check for levels of organic solvents. And then the local University was interested in the levels of certain pesticides. Every time somebody new gets involved in this project they want more analyses. So I have the samples analyzed for a wide variety of things. You never know what you can find.

Man 2: It sounds like you've done a lot of sampling already, what have your results been so far?

Man 1: Well, nothing conclusive. I mean we don't really have that much good data yet. I mean nothing you want to base a decision on anyway. And we've had some problems with the samples, holding time violations, that sort of thing. So I guess we just have to keep sampling and see what we get.

Man 2: Well, when is it going to be enough? What are your data quality objectives? What are your quality assurance criteria? And, for that matter, what is your exit strategy?

Man 1: I guess we just keep sampling till the money runs out.