

**CLARIFICATION****SUBMITTAL OF PSDDA QUALITY ASSURANCE/CONTROL (QA/QC) DATA**

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**INTRODUCTION**

The PSDDA Management Plan (7,8) contains requirements for the quality assurance/control (QA/QC) of analytical data to be used in the program. The process and degree of QA/QC of data used for making decisions on the suitability of dredged material for disposal at unconfined, open water sites differs from the QA/QC of data used to calculate PSDDA sediment quality guideline values.

**PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION**

Dredgers or their agents currently submit analytical and associated quality assurance data to the Corps on standard LOTUS spreadsheets (result of a DY 1989 ARM clarification (9)). However, seldom during DY 1990 did they submit all the QA data necessary for Ecology to evaluate whether the data may be added to the SEDQUAL database and used to calculate sediment quality guideline values.

**PROPOSED CLARIFICATION**

Data submittals important to performing the latter QA include:

## General Sample Data

- Cruise logs with positioning records and observations on sample collections
- Sample summary, including container and field equipment preparation, sample location and depth, sample size, handling procedures and storage conditions, holding time, dilution volume, etc.

## Chemical Data

- Analytical method used (for example, 625/8270 for semivolatiles)
- Instrument calibration and/or tuning results
- Instrument and method detection limits
- Reconstructed ion chromatograms for GC and/or GC/MS analyses
- Mass spectra of detected targeted compounds, with associated library spectra
- Raw data quantification reports
- Data qualifications
- Anomalies observed or experienced during analysis

### Biological Data

- Raw bioassay data necessary to determine if protocols have been followed (for example, appropriate preparation of test chambers, holding conditions, data on control chambers and responses, experimental test conditions, test duration), verify test endpoints and apply PSDDA interpretive guidelines

- Benthic sorting efficiency information

Only some of these are required for making suitability decisions. The other QA/QC information listed above must also be submitted. The PSDDA agencies recommend that dredgers or their agents submit these additional required QA data along with their data submitted to the Corps, who will then relay them to Ecology.