



THE NAVY'S ENVIRONMENTAL MAGAZINE

Currents

Winter 2009

Navy Leads the Way in

MARINE MAMMAL
SCIENCE

Continuing Investments
Will Aid Decision Making,
Protect Ocean Life

On Watch & Protecting Whales

Bald Eagles Are Thriving at NSF Indian Head

Naval Aviators Share Skies with Migrating Birds in South Texas

DoD Issues Policy for Acquisitions Involving Environmental Sampling

Intent is to Improve Data Quality from Outsourced Efforts

The *Department of Defense (DoD) Policy and Guidelines for Acquisitions Involving Environmental Sampling or Testing* is a step forward for improving the quality of data obtained from outsourced environmental sampling and testing.



Audits in 1997 by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the DoD Offices of Inspector General (OIG) found that data quality deficiencies across Federal facilities resulted in greater costs, delays in implementing hazardous waste site cleanups and the potential for increased risk to human health and the environment. A 2006 audit by the EPA OIG concluded that improved oversight was needed to address deficiencies in laboratory integrity.

In response, DoD has taken several actions to improve data integrity. One of those actions was issuing the *DoD Policy and Guidelines for Acquisitions Involving Environmental Sampling or Testing*. This policy was issued for immediate implementation by a

4 December 2007 memorandum from the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense. The memorandum was jointly signed by Alex A. Beehler, Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health and by Shay D. Assad, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy Director.

The policy applies to solicitations, contracts, purchases, task orders and delivery orders involving environmental sampling or testing. This includes orders placed by non-DoD agencies such as the General Services Administration on behalf of the DoD. Throughout DoD, over ninety percent of environmental sampling and testing is outsourced.

This policy is designed to accommodate flexibility. It can be integrated into existing practices. It does not nullify or supersede existing Environmental Management System requirements. The policy promotes the “Graded Approach”—meaning that the performance standards and the types of documentation required will vary depending on the scope of the work being performed, the intended uses of the data and the requirements of specific organizations and programs. The policy supports compliance with the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

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Implementation of the policy will facilitate compliance with the DoD Information Quality Guidelines and DoD Instruction 4715.15 which implements environmental data quality systems that are consistent with the national standard ANSI/ASQ E4 and the International Organization for



Standardization (ISO)/International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) standard 17025. This ISO/IEC standard defines the requirements for the competence of testing and calibration labs.

The policy and the memorandum can be downloaded from <http://www.navylabs.navy.mil>.

An on-line training module addressing this policy is currently under development by the Naval Civil Engineer Corps Officers School and the Defense Acquisition University. The module is scheduled for release in 2009. ↴

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