



## 8.4 Community Involvement in Environmental Surveillance

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Since 1991, citizens living near the Hanford Site have actively participated in site environmental surveillance activities through the Surface Environmental Surveillance Project. During 2001, local teachers operated nine radiological air-sampling stations at selected locations around the site perimeter. These stations were located in Basin City, Richland, Pasco, Kennewick, north Franklin County, Othello, Mattawa, Toppenish, and Benton City, Washington (see Figure 4.1.1). Each station consisted of equipment to collect air samples and to monitor ambient radiation levels. Four of the nine stations also included large, lighted, informational displays that provided real-time meteorological and radiological information as well as general information on

station equipment, sample types, and analyses (Figure 8.4.1). The station managers' names and telephone numbers were provided on the four displays for anyone desiring additional information about the purpose of the station, station equipment, or analytical results.

Two teachers from schools located near the stations were selected to operate each station. The teachers were responsible for collecting a variety of air samples, preparing the samples and collection records for submission to the analytical laboratory, monitoring the performance of station equipment, performing minor station maintenance, and participating in scheduled training. They also served as points of contact for local citizens. Pacific Northwest National Laboratory personnel worked closely with the teachers to provide training, maintain station equipment and displays, and coordinate sampling and analytical efforts with other Hanford Site environmental surveillance. Analytical results for samples collected at these stations in 2001 are discussed in Section 4.1. Results of gamma radiation measurements obtained at selected stations are discussed briefly in Section 4.7.

As a result of a reduced project budget in fiscal year 2002, the number of teacher-operated air-sampling stations was reduced from nine to four at the end of January 2002. The only stations that remained teacher-managed were those with displays and computerized data-collection systems. These stations were located in Basin City, Richland, Toppenish, and at Edwin Markham School in north Franklin County. The stations without displays continued to operate but Pacific Northwest National Laboratory personnel, who operated the stations prior to teacher involvement, resumed sample collection responsibilities.



**Figure 8.4.1. Community Members See Environmental Surveillance in Action at a Community-Operated Environmental Surveillance Station in Richland**