

7.4 Community Involvement in Environmental Surveillance



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During 2003, four teacher-operated radiological air sampling stations operated near the Hanford Site. These stations were located in Basin City, Richland, and Toppenish, Washington, and in north Franklin County at Edwin Markham Elementary School. Each of the stations has a large, lighted display that provides real-time weather and background radiation information to the public as well as general information on station equipment, sample types, and analyses (Figure 7.4.1).

Two teachers from nearby schools were selected to manage each station. The equipment at each location includes air samplers to collect airborne dust and moisture for radiological analysis, a variety of weather monitors, and detectors to monitor ambient radiation levels. The teachers are responsible for collecting the 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 serve as points of contact for local citizens. The station managers' names and telephone numbers are provided on the displays for anyone desiring additional information about the purpose of the station, station equipment, or analytical data. Pacific Northwest National Laboratory personnel work closely with the teachers to provide training, maintain station equipment and displays, and coordinate sampling and analytical efforts with other Hanford Site environmental surveillance personnel. Computerized data collection systems have been installed at each station to collect and display weather and background radiation information. The data in the computers at Toppenish and Richland

are accessible via telephone modems. The data from Basin City and Edwin Markham School are transmitted by radiotelemetry to the Hanford Meteorology Station computer where they are posted on the Internet every 15 minutes <<http://terrassa.pnl.gov:2080/HMS/>>. The Washington State Department of Transportation and the Pendleton, Oregon, office of the National Weather Service are currently obtaining weather data from these stations. Analytical results for the radiological air samples collected at these stations during 2003 are discussed in this report in Section 4.1. Results of gamma radiation measurements obtained at the stations during 2003 are discussed in Section 4.6 of this report.

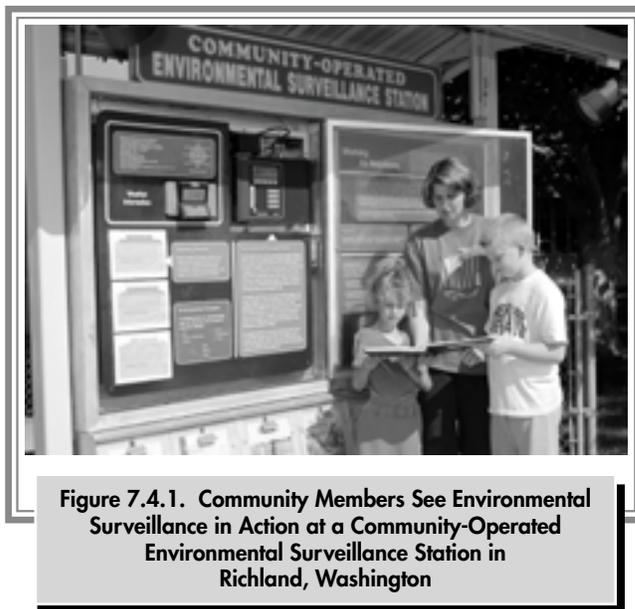


Figure 7.4.1. Community Members See Environmental Surveillance in Action at a Community-Operated Environmental Surveillance Station in Richland, Washington