

SECTION 3.0

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

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Within its operations, the ORISE/ESSAP conducts the following major categories of radiological surveys:

1. Preliminary (designation, screening, or inclusion) survey: Limited investigation to determine if radiological conditions warrant in-depth evaluation.
2. Characterization (comprehensive) survey: Thorough measurement and sampling to determine the extent and levels of site contamination. This survey is used to establish requirements for remedial action.
3. Operational Monitoring: Measurements to evaluate the adequacy and accuracy of routine monitoring and control and/or to determine compliance with regulations.
4. Verification (confirmatory) Survey: Measurements over limited site areas to verify the results of other survey findings.

Assignments are received from the NRC, DOE, or other Federal funding agencies. These agencies provide background information concerning the site history, type of survey desired, and scheduling requirements. The funding agency also provides names of site contacts and obtains site access consent when necessary.

A scoping visit is usually performed by a Project Leader or their designee to gather additional details concerning the site. Such details include a site-specific health and safety analysis, area and building descriptions, site accessibility for gridding and surveying, special equipment requirements, security arrangements, site contacts, recommended local accommodations, area maps and photographs. Other pertinent information is obtained through reviews of records and reports of the regulatory agencies.

A proposed survey plan is prepared for submission to the funding agency. Due to differences in sites, each plan is site-specific. Factors considered in the plan include the type of survey, site size and complexity, operational history, potential radionuclides present, and available manpower and equipment resources. The survey plan may require modification based on findings as the survey progresses. The plan is written to allow for such field changes. It is the responsibility of the cognizant site coordinator to make appropriate changes in the plan at the field location. All such changes must be documented in the site logbook or on the appropriate field survey forms.

Subcontracts and purchase requisitions for specialized services and equipment are initiated.

When the survey plan has been approved and the schedule finalized, the Project Leader and Survey Projects Manager select personnel for the survey and the site coordinator prepares a listing of supplies and instruments required. Travel arrangements are also initiated.

The survey is performed in accordance with the survey plan. All data and samples collected at the site are returned to the ESSAP laboratories in Oak Ridge for analysis and interpretation. A draft report of the survey results is provided, and following review and revision, a final report is issued.