



VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

August 6, 2019

Vallco Property Owner, LLC
965 Page Mill Road
Palo Alto, CA 94304
Attn: Reed Moulds

Subject: Workplan for Former Vallco Mall
Delineation of Extent of PCB Impact to Soil

Dear Mr. Moulds,

Per the request of the Vallco Property Owner, LLC (VPO), WSP USA Inc. (WSP) is providing this workplan to delineate the extent of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) concentrations in soil in a focused area at the former Vallco Mall located at 10123 North Wolfe Road in Cupertino, California.

BACKGROUND

In September 2016, Vallco retained Geosphere to conduct a subsurface investigation to collect various discrete soil samples at the Site as part of an accompanying geotechnical investigation. Geosphere drilled a total of eight borings (E-1 through E-8) using a mobile direct push GeoProbe® DT-22. A single sample from Geosphere boring E-5 one foot below ground surface (sample E5-1) contained PCBs at 523 µg/kg, which is above the Environmental Screening Levels (ESLs) for residential human health risks as established by the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), revised January 2019 and above the Regional Screening Levels (RSLs) for human health risks as established by the Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC), revised April 2019. The detection of PCBs above the ESL and RSL is isolated to just this one sample of the 32 samples Geosphere collected; however, VPO has requested that WSP perform further evaluation to confirm the limited extent of any impacts in this area. A site layout figure showing the approximate location of the soil boring is included as Figure 1.

DELINEATION OF EXTENT OF PCB IMPACT

INVESTIGATION APPROACH

To assess the extent of PCB impact to soil in the vicinity of boring E-5, WSP proposes to advance 5 soil borings. Four of the soil borings will be placed in a square shape approximately 7.5 feet (ft) away from boring E-5 on each side, mimicking the sidewalls of a 15-foot by 15-foot excavation with sample E5-1 in the center. One of the soil borings will be placed adjacent to location E-5 to confirm the original detection. The proposed locations of the soil borings are included as Figure 2. Soil samples will be collected at depths of one and five feet- below ground surface (ft-bgs). Only soil samples collected at one ft-bgs will be analyzed initially, all other soil samples will be archived and will only be analyzed if there is a detection of PCBs above the ESL or RSL in the boring. Additional step-out borings will be advanced 5 ft outwards from any perimeter boring with detections of PCBs that exceed the ESL or RSL. Step-out borings will continue until there is no evidence of PCBs that exceed the ESL or RSL.



FIELD PROCEDURES

All work will be performed in accordance with WSP's SOPs (Enclosure A). All soil borings will be advanced either by hand-auger tooling or installed by a C-57 licensed drilling company with direct-push drilling methods. The direct-push drilling rig will be equipped with Macro Core® or dual-tube continuous core samplers to advance the soil borings. Soils will be logged by a WSP geologist using the unified soil classification system (USCS).

PRE-FIELD ACTIVITIES

Prior to the commencement of the investigation, the proposed boring locations will be marked and Underground Service Alert (USA) will be called so all utility companies are notified to come to the Site and mark the location of their subsurface utilities. WSP will also retain a private utility locator to clear all boring locations before drilling.

SOIL SAMPLING

Field quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) procedures for the proposed soil sampling activities will include the collection and analysis of one equipment blank. The equipment blank will be prepared by pouring laboratory-prepared deionized water through sampling equipment and into sample containers after equipment decontamination. The equipment blank serves as a check to verify the effectiveness of decontamination procedures.

Soil samples will be placed in the appropriate laboratory-supplied containers, labeled, packed on ice, and delivered to a state-certified laboratory under standard chain-of-custody procedures for analysis of PCBs by EPA Method 8082A.

DECONTAMINATION

To minimize the potential for cross-contamination, any equipment that comes into contact with the subsurface will be decontaminated before use and between boring locations. Disposable equipment intended for one time use will not be decontaminated, but will be packaged for appropriate disposal. All non-disposable sampling devices will be decontaminated by first scrubbing in a non-phosphate detergent, followed by a tap water wash then a tap-water rinse.

SITE RESTORATION

If the soil borings are advanced by hand auger, the borings will be backfilled with the excavated soil. If the soil borings are advanced by a direct push drill rig, the borings will be filled bottom-up via tremie pipe with a neat cement grout hydrated with clean water at the completion of sampling. The ground surface will then be patched with asphalt or concrete as appropriate to match the surrounding grade.

INVESTIGATION DERIVED WASTE

All soil cuttings, if any remain, will be placed in labeled DOT-compliant 55-gallon drums and stored onsite to await characterization. Once characterized, the soil will be disposed of at a properly licensed disposal facility.



REPORTING

At the completion of all field work, WSP will submit the findings from the investigation to VPO. PCB concentrations will be compared to residential ESLs and RSLs. The report will include the following:

- Description of field procedures,
- Analytical results,
- Conclusions and recommendations.

Any updating of the Environmental Site Management Plan (ESMP) and the Site Characterization Report (SCR) based on this investigation will be coordinated with VPO.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard E. Freudenberger". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Richard E. Freudenberger
Executive Vice President
408.878.0657

FIGURES

Figure 1 – Previous Boring Locations

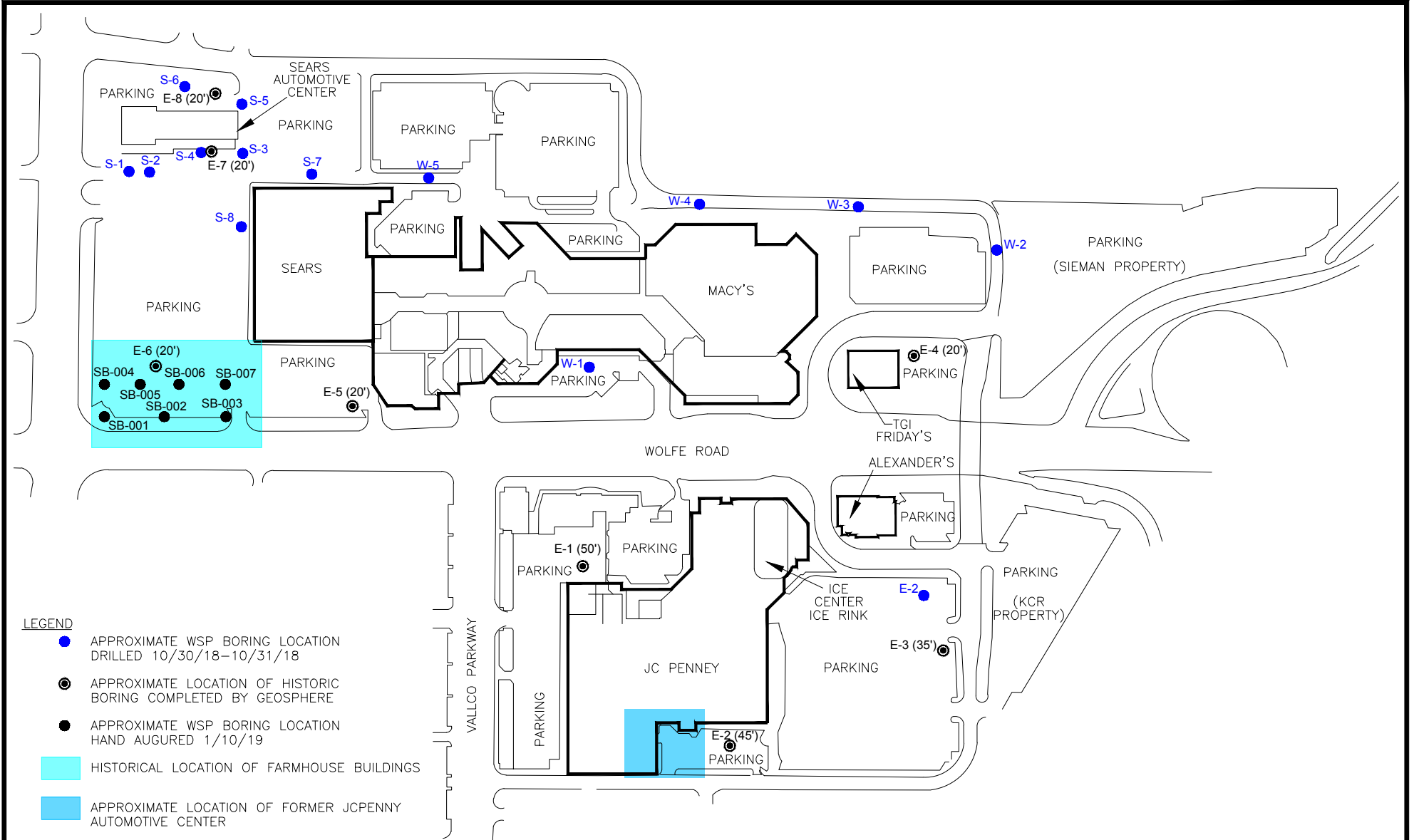
Figure 2 – PCB Investigation Proposed Boring Locations

ENCLOSURES

Enclosure A – WSP Standard Operating Procedures



FIGURES



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NOT TO SCALE

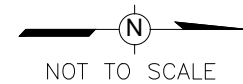
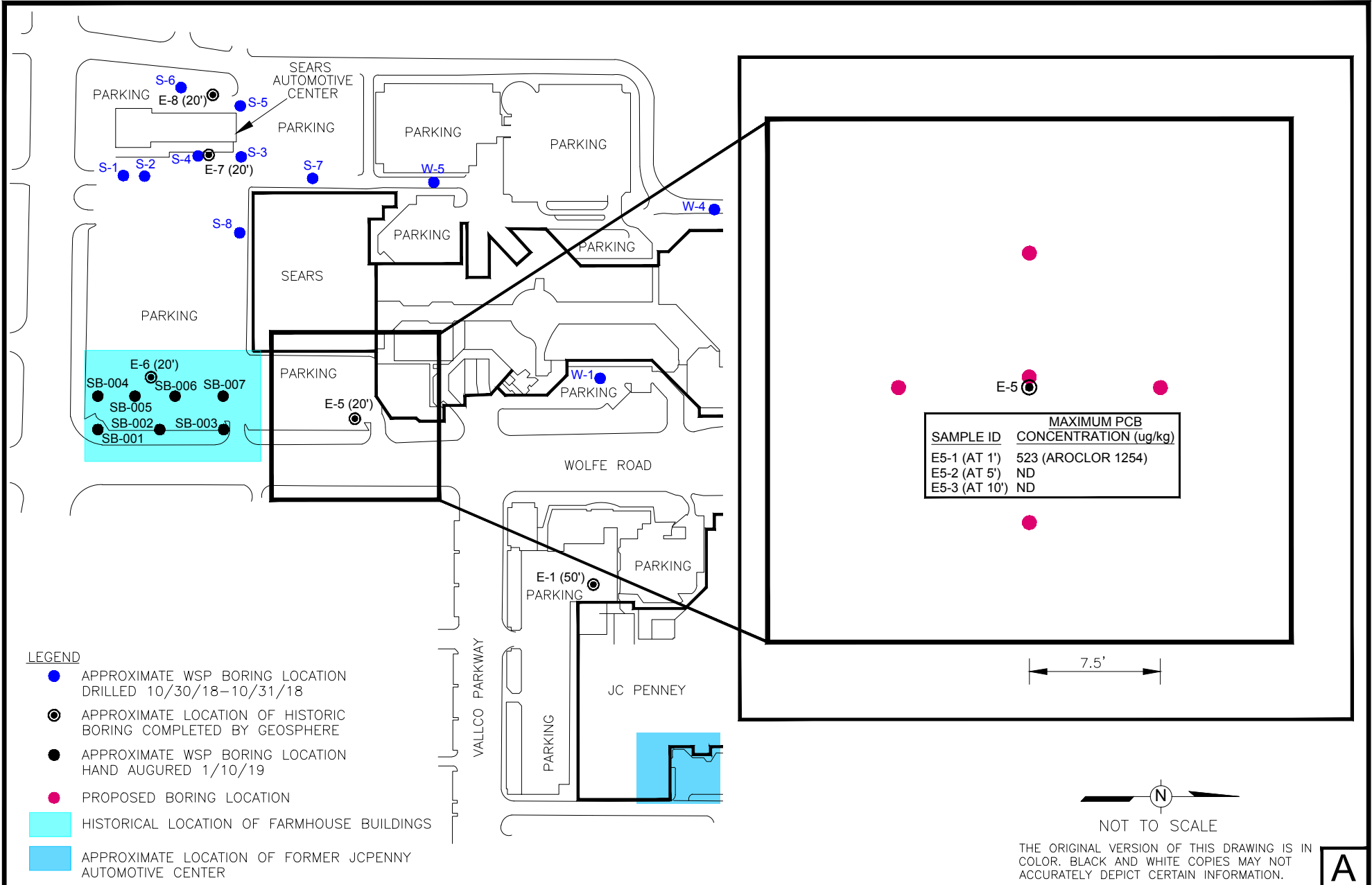
A

wsp WSP USA Inc.
 2025 GATEWAY PLACE
 SUITE 348
 SAN JOSE, CA 95110
 TEL: +1 408.453.6100

Figure 1
 Site Layout & Previous Boring Locations

VALLCO FASHION MALL
 10123 NORTH WOLFE ROAD
 CUPERTINO, CALIFORNIA
 PREPARED FOR
 VALLCO PROPERTY OWNER, LLC
 PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA

Drawn By:	LS 4/9/2019
Checked:	
Approved:	
DWG Name:	314MN1588.001-010



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 SAN JOSE, CA 95110
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Figure 2
PCB INVESTIGATION PROPOSED BORING LOCATION

VALLCO FASHION MALL
 10123 NORTH WOLFE ROAD
 CUPERTINO, CALIFORNIA
 PREPARED FOR
 VALLCO PROPERTY OWNER, LLC
 PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA

Drawn By: LS	7/29/2019
Checked: ER	7/29/2019
Approved:	
DWG Name: 314MN1588.001-014	



ENCLOSURE A – STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES



FIELD STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE #2

UTILITY LOCATING PROCEDURE

The purpose of this procedure is to ensure that all required and appropriate procedures are followed to locate and mark subsurface utilities (e.g., electrical lines, natural gas lines, communication lines) before initiating any intrusive field activities (e.g., drilling, test pits, trenching, excavation). The company's preference, as indicated in our subcontractor agreement templates, is for our contractors to be responsible for both public and private utility mark-outs; this includes contacting the public authority and obtaining a subcontractor for private utility locating services, if needed. Guidance for contractors to follow to conduct a utility clearance is provided in our request for proposal (RFP) template and must be included in all RFP's for intrusive field activities.

In rare circumstances, the company may choose to accept responsibility for clearing utilities, which will require a change to the language of our subcontractor agreement. This assumption of increased liability by the company requires written rationale and approval from the cognizant Regional Manager, with written concurrence from the Director of Operations, which shall be obtained prior to submitting the Request for Subcontract to Contract Administration.

For projects where the company will be responsible for clearing utilities, compliance with this procedure is mandatory. ALL deviations from this standard operating procedure (SOP) MUST be approved by the project manager and a Regional Manager, with confirmation from the Director of Operations BEFORE beginning intrusive work.

Field personnel have the authority and responsibility to postpone intrusive activities if a contractor has not completed utility clearances to the company's satisfaction; if sufficient information, as stipulated in this SOP, is not available; or if onsite reconnaissance identifies inconsistencies in the findings of utility locators. In these instances, field personnel must notify the project manager or the health and safety officer, or their designee, before proceeding with the proposed work; approval from a Regional Manager, with confirmation from the Director of Operations, is required before the work commences.

The user is advised to read the entire SOP and review the site health and safety plan (HASP) before beginning any onsite activities.

2.1 ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

HASP	Health and safety plan
RFP	Request for proposal
SOP	Standard operating procedure

2.2 MATERIALS

- Utility Locating Form (Attachment 1)
- Field book
- Wood stakes
- Spray paint
- Flagging tape
- As-built drawings for sub-grade utilities (if available)



- Hand auger or post-hole digger

2.3 PRECONDITIONS AND BACKGROUND

This SOP has been prepared as part of the company's Environmental Quality Management Plan and is designed to provide detailed procedures for common field practices. Compliance with the methods presented in this document is mandatory for all field personnel and will ensure that the tasks are performed in a safe and consistent manner, are in accordance with federal and state guidance, and are technically defensible.

This SOP is written for the sole use of company employees and will be revised periodically to reflect updates to company policies, work practices, and the applicable state and/or federal guidance. Employees must verify that this document is the most recent version of the company SOPs. Employees are also strongly advised to review relevant state and/or federal guidance, which may stipulate program-specific procedures, in advance of task implementation.

WSP requires that all personnel performing specific project assignments be appropriately qualified, including having required certifications or licenses, and properly trained in accordance with the requirements of their assignment, the Environmental Service Line's field standard operating procedures, and the Quality Management System.

This procedure is intended to allow the work to proceed safely and minimize the potential for damaging underground and aboveground utilities. Intrusive work includes all activities that require the company's employees or its subcontractors to penetrate the ground surface. Examples of intrusive work include, but are not limited to, hand augering, probing, drilling, injections, test pit excavations, trenching, and remedial excavations.

This SOP assumes the user is familiar with basic field procedures, such as recording field notes (SOP 1).

2.4 PRE-FIELD MOBILIZATION PROCEDURES

Regardless of who is responsible for completing these activities (company or a contractor), public rights-of-way and private property must be cleared of buried utilities and overhead utilities must be identified before any intrusive work can begin. The first step in this process is notifying the state public utility locating service of the planned work. These services provide a link between the entities performing the work and the various utility operators (e.g., the water company, the electric company, etc.). All of the public utility locating service call centers in the United States have been streamlined under a single "Call Before You Dig" phone number: 811. However, the appropriate state or provincial call center (<http://call811.com/811-your-state>) will need to be contacted.

Please note, some state or provincial laws require that the person who will actually be conducting the intrusive work must be the person who places the call to the public utility locating service. This means that the company cannot make this call on the contractor's behalf; the contractor must place the call in those states where required. If there is any doubt about the requirements for the state where a project is located, the relevant state authority must be contacted (<http://call811.com/811-your-state>).

When the appropriate call center is contacted, information regarding the site (e.g., location, nearest cross street, township, etc.) and work activity (e.g., drilling, excavation) will need to be provided to the operator to aid in locating the likely utilities at the work site. The information provided on the Utility Locating Form (Attachment 1) must be recorded (by the contractor or the company) and a completed copy of this form must be maintained as part of the project file. Be aware that several states, including California, require that the proposed drilling locations be marked with white spray paint before contacting the locating services.

The following information must accompany the field team at all times during the field project:



- The utility clearance ticket number
- The ticket's legal dig date
- The ticket's expiration date
- Utility providers that were contacted

The ticket number serves as a point of reference for both the utility service providers and for the company or contractor should follow up (e.g., renewing the ticket) with the locating service be required. The legal dig and expiration dates reflect the times when it will be legal to perform the proposed work. The legal dig date reflects the lead time necessary, typically between 48 and 72 hours after you call, for the utility service providers to mark the utilities in you work area. Be sure to include this delay when scheduling your work. Most utility clearance tickets expire about 2 weeks after the legal dig date. If your work is delayed beyond the expiration date, the 811 utility locating service will need to be called again and the ticket renewed. The renewed ticket will have a new legal dig date that incorporates the same lead-time (48 to 72 hours) as the original ticket.

The locating service will also provide the caller with a list of utility companies that will be notified. Compare this list with utilities generally expected at all sites (e.g., sewer, water, gas, communication, and electric). Some utilities (e.g., sewer, water, cable television) may not be included. If any expected utilities are absent from the contact list, the utilities **MUST** be contacted directly for clearance before the start of intrusive activities. All contacts should be recorded on the Utility Locating Form.

2.4.1 PRIVATE UTILITY LOCATORS AND OTHER SOURCES

Public utility service providers will generally mark their underground lines within the public right-of-way up to the private property boundary. A public utility locating service must be contacted prior to any intrusive work, regardless of whether the intrusive work is located on public or private property. However, be aware that most public utility locating services will not locate utilities on private property. If your work is to be conducted on private property, a private utility locating service **MUST** be used to clear the work area. These companies typically use a variety of methods (e.g., electromagnetic detectors, ground-penetrating radar, acoustic plastic pipe locator, trace wire) to locate utilities in the work area, including those that may be buried beneath onsite buildings. Pseudoscientific methods (e.g., dowsing, divining, witching) are not acceptable utility locating methods.

For all operating facilities and to the extent possible for closed facilities, identify a site contact familiar with the utilities on the property (e.g., plant manager, facility engineer, maintenance supervisor), and provide this individual with a site plan showing the proposed locations of all soil borings, monitoring wells, test pits, and other areas where intrusive activities will be conducted. These individuals often have knowledge of buried structures or process-specific utilities that may not be identified by the private utility locator. This is particularly important for work performed inside industrial buildings where reinforced concrete and other metallic components of the structure may interfere with the scanning devices used by the private utility locator. Ask the site contact for all drawings concerning underground utilities in the proposed work areas for future reference.

Keep in mind that no intrusive work may be done before the legal dig date provided by the state utility locating service and no digging, drilling, or other ground-breaking activities may be begin until all utilities on the list have been marked and visually verified in the work area (see below). It is **NOT ACCEPTABLE** to rely solely on as-built drawings or verbal utility clearances from the site contact (these should be used as guides only). A private locator may not be necessary in rare instances; however, nonconformity with the private locate requirement must be approved by the project manager **AND** a Regional Manager, with confirmation from the Director of Operations.

2.5 SITE MOBILIZATION PROCEDURES

Upon arrival, the first step in determining if you are clear of buried and overhead utilities is to locate all of the proposed drilling and trenching locations and mark them with (white) spray paint, stakes, or other appropriate markers. This will help you judge distances from marked drilling and trenching locations to underground and overhead utilities and minimizes any potential misunderstandings regarding the locations between you, the subcontractors (drillers, excavators, private utility locator), and the site contact.

Once you have the proposed work areas marked, verify that ALL utility companies listed by the state public utility locating service, and any contacted directly by the company or the contractor, have either marked the underground lines in the specified work areas or have responded (via telephone, facsimile, or e-mail) with “no conflict.” Document on the Utility Locating Form (Attachment 1) and in the field book as each utility mark is visually confirmed. When receiving verbal clearances by telephone from utility companies, or their subcontractors, it is imperative that you verify the utilities that are being cleared, particularly when dealing with subcontractors that may be marking more than one utility.

Review all available as-built utility diagrams and plans for your general work area and conduct a site walk to identify potential areas where underground lines may be present; include the site contact in these activities. It is a good idea to survey your surroundings during the walk to identify any features that may indicate the presence of underground utilities, such as linear depressions in the ground, cuts in concrete or asphalt, old road cuts, catch basins, or manholes. Keep in mind that many sewer lines can be offset from catch basins. The presence of aboveground utilities, such as parking lot lights or pad-mounted transformers, is also a good indicator of buried electrical lines. Check these items against the Utility Locating Form checklist and discuss the locations with the private utility locating service.

2.5.1 SAFE WORKING DISTANCES AND HAND CLEARING

A minimum of 4 feet clearance must exist between utilities and proposed drilling locations, and a minimum of 6 feet between utilities and proposed trenching locations. Be aware that some states and localities (e.g., New York City, Long Island) may require greater minimum working distances, depending on the utility (e.g., for high pressure gas mains). A minimum distance of 15 feet must be maintained by heavy equipment (e.g., excavator buckets, drill rig towers and rods) from overhead power lines and a safe distance of 25 feet must be maintained from high-tension overhead power lines. In the event that work must be conducted within 25 feet of high tension wires, the lines must be wrapped and insulated by the local utilities. Increase these minimum distances whenever possible to offer additional assurance that buried or overhead utilities will not be encountered.

If a utility conflict is identified within the minimum safe clearance distance, adjust the proposed location(s) using the criteria given above. It is recommended to have the private utility locator sweep a relatively large area (e.g., a 20-foot circle around a proposed drilling location) to provide room for adjustment should the proposed drilling or excavation area need to be moved to avoid a buried utility.

Uncertainty may exist in some circumstances (e.g., inside a building) even after the area has been swept for utilities. In these cases, advance the first few feet of a soil boring (or probe the area for excavation) using a hand auger or post-hole digger. If hand digging is unable to penetrate the subsurface soils, soft dig or air knife equipment service providers may be retained to clear the location. This equipment applies high pressure air to penetrate, loosen, and extract subsurface soils in the borehole, thereby safely exposing any utilities. If using either hand digging or soft digging, the probe hole should be advanced a minimum of 5 feet below ground surface at each proposed drilling or excavation location. Complete a sufficient number of probe holes so that the area is



cleared for the proposed intrusive activity (i.e., use several holes for a proposed excavation). The use of hand digging or soft digging methods **does not** replace the need for state and private utility locating services.

2.5.2 EXPANDED WORK AREAS AND TICKET RENEWAL


Many projects begin with well-defined work areas only to expand quickly as the investigation or remediation progresses. If the scope of intrusion expands or includes new onsite or offsite area(s), you will need to review the existing ticket and work performed by the private utility locator to determine whether work can progress into the new area safely. It may be necessary, depending on the scope, to contact (or for the Contractor to contact) the state locating service and request another clearance for the new area(s) of investigation and retain a private locating service. Remember, the new request will provide a new legal dig date before which NO INTRUSIVE WORK CAN BEGIN. Additionally, if a clearance ticket will expire while the work is ongoing (typically after 2 weeks), a new clearance must be requested before the first ticket expires so that work can continue uninterrupted. Refer to the Utility Locating Form (Attachment 1) for the legal dig date time frame required by the state locating service.

2.5.3 UTILITY DAMAGE


It is possible, even if you followed all of the procedures outlined in this SOP, to damage an underground or overhead utility. Assuming it can be done safely, quickly turn off the drilling or excavating equipment, or move the equipment from the damaged line. Avoid contact with escaping liquids, live wires, and open flames. Abandon the equipment, evacuate the personnel from the area, and maintain a safe perimeter if there are any concerns about safety. If a fiber optic cable is damaged, do not handle the cable or look into the end of the cable as serious eye damage may occur. Once personnel are in a secure location, immediately notify the facility operator or site contact and 811; additionally, send an immediate alert or notification via iSMS and send an email to SafetyTeam@wsp.com. You should also, as applicable, contact your immediate supervisor, human resources and sector management in accordance with company policy. If the damaged utility has the potential to cause, or is causing, dangerous conditions, immediately notify the local emergency response number listed in your HASP.

** This form is mandatory for all intrusive work, regardless of who is responsible for the public and/or private locate.

Utility Locating Form
Page 1 of 2

Project Name		Project No. and Task		Work being done for (Company or Individual Name)		Project Manager	
Office Address		Office Phone		Field Contact		Field Contact Phone	
Project Location: Street Address			City/Township		County		State
Nearest Intersecting Street							
Description of Work Area (street working on, which side of street, how far in which direction from nearest intersecting street; etc.)							
Type of Work		Explosives (Y/N)	Directional Borings (Y/N)		Dig Locations Marked (Y/N)	Mark Type (e.g., stake)	
Scheduled Work Start (Date & Time)		Estimated Work Stop Date		One-call Phone Number/Website Address		One-call Service Name	
Call/Web Notification Made By (Name, Title and Company)				Date & Time of Call/Web Notification		Operator Name	
Ticket No.		Legal Dig Date		Ticket Expiration Date		Ticket Renewal Date	
Utilities Notified			Complete After Receiving Notification (e.g., e-mail, facsimile) from Utilities or Subcontractor				
			Utilities Present (Y/N)		Onsite Meeting (Y/N; if "Y" Date & Time)	Contact Name and Phone	
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							
Form Completed By (Signature)							
			(e-mail completed page 1 to Project Manager)				

** This form is mandatory for all intrusive work, regardless of who is responsible for the public and/or private locate.

Private Utility Locator Information				
Company		Contact Name	Phone	E-mail
Who Contracted Locator?			Scheduled Start (Date & Time)	Contract Executed (Y/N/NA)
Onsite Visual Confirmation of Utilities			Cleared or Marked (Y/N)	No Markings - Comments
Marking Color	Utility Type and Visual Clues			
Blue	Potable water: fire hydrant, manholes; water meter, ASTs, interior connections, hose bib, valve box			
Yellow	Gas, oil steam, petroleum: gas meter, manholes; yellow bollards, interior connections, valve box			
Red	Electric power lines, lighting cables, parking lot lights, overhead lines (telephone poles), conduits: interior connections, underground vaults, manholes, transformers/switchgear, conduit on buildings			
Green	Sewer and drain lines: underground vaults, manholes, drain grates, leach field, sand mound, no evidence of sanitary sewer (for septic system)			
Orange	Communication, alarm or signal lines, cables or conduits: red/orange bollards, telephone poles, interior connections; manholes; conduit on buildings			
Purple	Reclaimed water, irrigation, and slurry lines: sprinkler heads, hose bibs			
Pink	Survey markings			
White	Proposed locations for excavation and drilling			
Project Manager Notified of any Conflicts? (Y/N)				
Notes:				
Marks Verified By (Signature)				
			(scan and save to client file)	

FIELD STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE #4

SAMPLE COLLECTION AND QUALITY ASSURANCE PROCEDURE

The purpose of this procedure is to assure that sample volumes and preservatives are sufficient for analytical services required under U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or other agency approved protocols. This operating procedure describes sample identification procedures, sampling order for select analytes, quality control and quality assurance (QA/QC) sampling procedures, and custody documentation for environmental sampling. The user is advised to read the entire standard operating procedure (SOP) and review the site health and safety plan (HASP) before beginning any onsite activities. In accordance with the HASP, proper personal protective equipment (PPE) must be selected and used appropriately.

4.1 ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

°C	Degrees Celsius
COC	Chain-of-custody [form]
DI	Deionized water
DOT	U.S. Department of Transportation
EDD	Electronic data deliverable
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
HASP	Health and safety plan
ID	Identification [number]
MS/MSD	Matrix spike and matrix spike duplicate
MSA	Master Services Agreement
PPE	Personal protective equipment
QA	Quality assurance
QA/QC	Quality assurance/quality control
QAPP	Quality assurance project plan
SOP	Standard operating procedure
VOCs	Volatile organic compounds

4.2 MATERIALS

- Field book
- Indelible (waterproof) markers or pens
- PPE
- Sample containers
- Sample labels
- Clear tape
- Deionized (DI) water
- Cleaned or dedicated sampling equipment



4.3 PRECONDITIONS AND BACKGROUND

This SOP has been prepared as part of the company’s USA Corp. Environmental Quality Management Plan and is designed to provide detailed procedures for common field practices. Compliance with the methods presented in this document is mandatory for all field personnel and will ensure that the tasks are performed in a safe and consistent manner, are in accordance with federal and state guidance, and are technically defensible.

This SOP is written for the sole use of employees and will be revised periodically to reflect updates to company policies, work practices, and the applicable state and/or federal guidance. Employees must verify that this document is the most recent version of the company’s SOPs. Employees are also strongly advised to review relevant state and/or federal guidance, which may stipulate program-specific procedures, in advance of task implementation.

WSP requires that all personnel performing specific project assignments be appropriately qualified, including having required certifications or licenses, and properly trained in accordance with the requirements of their assignment, the Environmental Service Line’s field standard operating procedures, and the Quality Management System.

This SOP is designed to provide the user with a general outline for collecting environmental and quality assurance samples and assumes the user is familiar with basic field procedures, such as recording field notes (SOP 1), sample shipment procedures (SOP 3), investigation derived waste management procedures (SOP 5), and equipment decontamination (SOP 6). This SOP does not cover investigation planning, nor does it cover the analysis of the analytical results. These topics are more appropriately addressed in a site-specific work plan or a dedicated quality assurance project plan (QAPP).

4.4 SAMPLE IDENTIFICATION PROCEDURES

Information on the sample container labels must include the site/project name, project/task number, unique alpha-numeric sample identification (ID) number, sample collection date, time of collection using the military or 24-hour clock system (i.e., 0000 to 2400 hours), analytical parameters, preservative, and the initials of the sampling personnel. Employees are advised to use pre-printed waterproof mailing labels (e.g., Avery® 5xxx-series Waterproof Address Labels) for all sample identification. Label templates are available.

The sample identification (ID) number must, unless otherwise approved by your project manager or specified in your site-specific work plan, follow the company’s naming protocol. This protocol was developed to aid in determining the type of sample collected (e.g., soil, groundwater, vapor, etc.), the sample location, and, where appropriate, the sample depth. The protocol was also designed to ensure consistency across the company.

Construct sample IDs in the following format:

SB-10A (4-6)

Where, in this example:

- SB = the first two or three characters will define the sample type (see list of approved prefixes below); in this case, a soil boring
- 10A = the next two or three alpha-numeric digits (separated by a dash from the sample type identifier) indicate the location of the boring on the site; in this case, boring number 10A
- (4-6) = the depth the sample was collected, with the first number (including decimals, if necessary) indicating the top of the sample interval (in feet) and the second number indicating the bottom of the sample interval (in feet); not all sample types will include depth information.

Additional label information may be added after the last character of the sample ID number (e.g., sample date, underground storage tank number, area of concern number, “Area” number, client identifier, etc.). Separate any additional information from the required portion of the sample name by dash(es).

Sample Prefix	Permitted Use
AA	Ambient outdoor air sample

Sample Prefix	Permitted Use
CC	Concrete core/chip sample
CS	Confirmation/verification soil sample collected from an excavation
HA	Soil sample collected with a hand auger
IAB	Indoor air sample – basement
IAC	Indoor air sample – crawl space
IAF	Indoor air sample – first floor
MW	Soil sample collected from a monitoring well borehole or a groundwater sample collected from a monitoring well
PZ	Groundwater sample collected from a piezometer
SB	Soil sample collected from boreholes that will not be converted to monitoring wells
SED	Sediment sample
SG	Soil gas sample other than a sub-slab sample (e.g., sample collected from a temporary or permanent polyvinyl chloride sample point or stainless steel screen implant)
SL	Sludge sample
SS	Surface soil sample collected using hand tools (e.g., trowel, spoon, etc.) and typically at depths less than 2 feet below ground surface
SSV	Sub-slab vapor sample
SW	Surface water sample
TC	Tree core sample
TP	Soil sample collected from a test pit
WC	Waste characterization sample
WP	Wipe sample
WW	Wastewater

4.5 SAMPLE CONTAINERS, PRESERVATIVES, AND HOLDING TIMES

The first step in sample collection is to verify that the analytical laboratory has provided the correct number and type of sample containers and each contains the appropriate preservatives for the proposed project (i.e., check against the sampling plan requirements outlined in the site-specific QAPP or, for those projects without a site-specific QAPP, the laboratory Task Order). Inspect all containers and lids for flaws (cracks, chips, etc.) before use. Do not use any container with visible defects or discoloration. Report any discrepancies, or non-receipt, of specific types of sample containers to the team leader or project manager immediately. Make arrangements with the laboratory to immediately ship missing or additional sampling containers.

Precautions must be taken to prevent cross-contamination and contamination of the environment when collecting samples. Wear a clean pair of new, disposable gloves each time a different sample is collected and don the gloves immediately prior to sampling. The gloves must not come in contact with the medium being sampled and must be changed any time during sample collection when their cleanliness is compromised. Sample collection must follow all appropriate SOPs, state and federal regulations, or guidance, for the collection of environmental samples; the recommended order of sample collection is:

- Geochemical measurements (e.g., temperature, pH, specific conductance)
- Volatile organic compounds (VOCs)
- Extractable organics, petroleum hydrocarbons, aggregate organics, and oil and grease
- Total metals
- Dissolved metals
- Inorganic non-metallic and physical and aggregate properties
- Microbiological samples
- Radionuclides

Collected samples that require thermal preservation must be immediately (within 15 minutes) placed in a cooler with wet ice and maintained at a preservation temperature of 4° Celsius (°C).

4.6 FIELD QUALITY ASSURANCE/QUALITY CONTROL SAMPLES

Field quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) samples include equipment blanks, trip blanks, duplicates, and split samples. The project manager or QAPP must specify the type and frequency of QA/QC sample collection. The QA/QC sample identification number must, unless otherwise approved by your project manager or specified in your site-specific work plan, follow the company's naming protocol as discussed in the sections below. QA/QC samples must be clearly identified on our copy of the COC form and in the field book. Failure to properly collect and submit required QA/QC samples can result in invalidation of an entire sampling event.

Collect, preserve, transport and document split samples using the same protocols as the related samples.

4.6.1 EQUIPMENT BLANKS

Equipment blanks are used to document contamination attributable to using non-dedicated equipment (i.e., equipment that must be decontaminated after each use). Collect equipment blanks in the field at a rate of one per type of sampling equipment per day, unless otherwise specified. If the site-specific work plan or QAPP indicates that an equipment blank is to be collected from dedicated sampling equipment, collect the equipment blank in the field before sampling begins. If field decontamination of sampling equipment is required, prepare the equipment blanks after the equipment has been used and field-decontaminated at least once. Prepare equipment blanks by filling or rinsing the pre-cleaned equipment with laboratory-provided analyte-free water, deionized water (DI) and collecting the rinsate in the appropriate sample containers. The samples must be labeled, preserved, and filtered (if required) in the same manner as the environmental samples. Record the type of sampling equipment used to prepare the blank. Have the equipment blanks analyzed for all the analytes for which the environmental samples are being analyzed, unless otherwise specified. Decontamination of the equipment following equipment blank procurement is not required. If laboratory-grade DI water is unavailable, store-grade distilled water can be used to prepare these blanks. If store-grade distilled water is used, be sure to record the source and lot number in the field book. Designate equipment blanks using "EB", followed by the date, and in the order of equipment blanks collected that day. For example, the first equipment blank collected on July 4, 2015, would be designated EB070415-1.

4.6.2 TRIP BLANKS

Trip blanks are used to document VOC contamination attributable to shipping and field handling procedures. Trip blanks are only required when analyzing samples for VOCs. Trip blank(s) are prepared by the laboratory and sent to the facility along with sample containers. Never open trip blank sample bottles; label them in the field and return them to the laboratory in the same shipping container in which the trip blank sample bottles arrived at the site. Keep the trip blank sample bottles in the same shipping container used to ship and store VOC sample bottles during the sampling event. Unless more stringent project requirements are in place, submit one trip blank in each shipping container of VOC samples. To minimize the number of trip blanks needed per shipment, if possible, ship all of the VOC samples in the same shipping container with the trip blank. If laboratory-provided trip blanks are not available, DI water, or store-grade distilled water and clean, empty VOC sample bottles can be used to prepare additional trip blanks. If store-grade distilled water is used, be sure to record the source and lot number in the field book. Identify trip blanks using "TB", followed by the date. For example, the trip blank shipped with a cooler of samples on July 4, 2015, would be designated TB070415-1. If a second trip blank is needed on that same day, the designation would be TB070415-2.

4.6.3 TEMPERATURE BLANK

Temperature blanks are used to determine if proper sample thermal preservation has been maintained by measuring the temperature of the sample container upon arrival at the laboratory. A temperature blank should be included in each sample cooler

used to ship and store the sample bottles during the sampling event. If laboratory-provided temperature blanks are not available, fill a clean, unpreserved sample bottle with potable, DI, or store-grade distilled water and identify the bottle as a temperature blank.

4.6.4 DUPLICATES

Duplicates are useful for measuring the variability and documenting the precision of the sampling process. Unless more stringent project requirements are in place, collect duplicate samples at a rate of at least 1 per 20 samples collected. Under no circumstances can equipment or trip blanks be used as duplicates. Sample locations where sufficient sample volume is available and where expected contamination is present should be selected for sample duplication.

Collect each duplicate sample at the same time, from the same sample aliquot and in the same order as the corresponding field environmental sample. When collecting aqueous duplicate samples, alternately fill sample bottle sets (i.e., the actual sample bottle and the bottle to be used for the duplicate) with aqueous samples from the same sampling device. If the sampling device does not hold enough volume to fill the sample containers, fill the first container with equal portions of the sample, and pour the remaining sample into the next sample containers. Obtain additional sample volume and pour the first portion into the last sample container, and pour the remaining portions into the first containers. Continue with these steps until all containers have been filled.

Duplicate samples will be assigned arbitrary sample ID and a false collection time so that they are not identified as duplicates by the laboratory (i.e., submit the samples blind to the lab). The blind duplicate sample "location designation" will be left up to the project manager; however, in no case will "Dup" be allowed to appear in the sample name. Have the duplicate samples analyzed for the same analytes as the original sample. Be sure to record the duplicate sample ID, the false time, and the actual time of collection in the field notebook. The duplicate should also be indicated on our carbon copy of the chain-of-custody.

4.6.5 MATRIX SPIKE AND MATRIX SPIKE DUPLICATES

Matrix spike and matrix spike duplicate samples, known as MS/MSD samples, are used to determine the bias (accuracy) and precision of a method for a specific sample matrix. Many of the company's projects require the collection of MS/MSD samples; however, laboratory generated MS/MSD samples are sufficient for some projects. As required by your QAPP or site-specific work plan, collect MS/MSD samples at the required ratio; if the sampling ratio is not specified by your QAPP or site-specific work plan, collect MS/MSD samples at a rate of 1 for every 20 samples. Clearly convey the MS/MSD identity to the laboratory by adding "MS" or "MSD" after the sample name (e.g., MW 01MS) or in the comments section of the chain-of-custody. Under no circumstances can equipment or trip blanks be used as MS/MSD samples.

4.6.6 SPLIT SAMPLES

Split samples may be collected as a means of determining compliance or as an added measure of quality control. Unlike duplicate samples that measure the variability of both the sample collection and laboratory procedures, split samples measure only the variability between laboratories. Therefore, the laboratory samples must be subsamples of the same parent sample and every attempt must be made to ensure sample homogeneity. Collect aqueous split samples in the same manner as a duplicate sample.

Collecting split samples of soil, sediment, waste, and sludge is not recommended because the homogenization necessary for a true split sample in these matrices is not possible and the resulting laboratory results would not be comparable.

Split samples should have the same sample location designation (e.g., MW-01, SB-03 (4-6)), but are differentiated from each other by inserting the laboratory analyzing or the agency/consultant collecting the sample after the sample location (e.g., MW-01-WSP and MW-01-EPA).

4.7 CUSTODY DOCUMENTATION

Sample custody protocols are used to demonstrate that the samples and sample containers were handled and transferred in such a manner as to prevent tampering. Legal chain of custody (COC) begins when the pre-cleaned sample containers are dispatched to the field from the laboratory and continues through sample analysis and eventual disposal of the sample and sample containers. Maintaining custody requires that samples must be in the actual possession or view of a person who is authorized to handle the samples (e.g., sample collector, laboratory technician), secured by the same person to prevent tampering, or stored in a designated secure area.

It is a good idea to limit, to the extent possible, the number of individuals who physically handle the samples. Samples must be placed in locked storage (e.g., locked vehicle, locked storeroom, etc.) at all times when not in the possession or view of authorized personnel. Do not leave samples in unoccupied motel or hotel rooms or other areas where access cannot be controlled by the person(s) responsible for custody without first securing samples and shipping or storage containers with tamper-indicating evidence tape or custody seals

The COC form is used to trace sample possession from the time of collection to receipt at the laboratory. Although laboratories commonly supply their own COC form, it is recommended that the company's COC be used to ensure that all necessary data are recorded. Unless more stringent project requirements are in place, submit one COC form per sample shipment. At a minimum, the COC needs to have a unique COC number, accompany all the samples, and include the following information:

- Project number, name, and location
- Sampler's printed name(s) and signature(s)
- Sample identification number
- Date and time (military time) of collection
- Sample matrix
- Total number of containers per sample
- Parameters requested for analysis including number of containers per analyte
- Remarks (e.g., irreducible headspace, field filtered sample, expected concentration range, specific turn-around time requested, etc.)
- Signatures of all persons involved in the chain of possession in chronological order
- Requested turn-around-time
- Name and location of analytical laboratory
- Custody seal numbers
- Shipping courier name and tracking information
- Internal temperature of shipping container upon shipment to laboratory, as needed
- Internal temperature of shipping container upon delivery to laboratory
- Employee contact information

Affix tamper-indicating evidence tape or seals to all storage and shipping container closures when transferring or shipping sample container kits or samples to an off-property party. Place the seal so that the closure cannot be opened without breaking the seal. Record the time, calendar date and signatures of responsible personnel affixing and breaking all seals for each sample container and shipping container. Affix new seals every time a seal is broken until continuation of evidentiary custody is no longer required.



FIELD STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE #9

SOIL SAMPLING PROCEDURE

The soil sampling procedures outlined in this standard operating procedure (SOP) are designed to ensure that collected soil samples are representative of current site conditions. Soil samples can be collected for onsite screening or for laboratory analysis. The user is advised to read the entire SOP and review the site health and safety plan (HASP) before beginning any onsite activities. In accordance with the HASP, proper personal protective equipment (PPE) must be selected and used appropriately.

9.1 ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

°F	Degrees Fahrenheit
HASP	Health and Safety Plan
IDW	Investigation derived waste
PID	Photoionization detector
PPE	Personal protective equipment
QAPP	Quality Assurance Project Plan
QA/QC	Quality assurance/quality control
SOP	standard operating procedure
USCS	Unified Soil Classification System

9.2 MATERIALS

- Field book
- PPE
- Air quality monitoring equipment, (e.g., photoionization detector [PID]), as needed
- Field test kits, as needed
- Sampling containers and labeling/shipping supplies
- Knife or scissors
- Ruler or tape measure
- Zipper-style plastic bags, as needed
- Plastic sheeting
- Soil sampling method specific materials, as needed:
 - Stainless steel trowels, probes, or shovels
 - Stainless steel spatulas or spoons
 - Bucket augers, auger extension rods, auger handle, pipe wrenches
 - Split-spoon samplers, pipe wrenches
 - Direct-push acetate liners
 - Shelby tube samplers, plastic or wax caps
 - Mixing tray or bowl
- Munsell color chart
- Decontamination supplies

9.3 PRECONDITIONS AND BACKGROUND

This SOP has been prepared as part of the company's Environmental Quality Management Plan and is designed to provide detailed procedures for common field practices. Compliance with the methods presented in this document is mandatory for all field personnel and will ensure that the tasks are performed in a safe and consistent manner, are in accordance with federal and state guidance, and are technically defensible.

This SOP is written for the sole use of company employees and will be revised periodically to reflect updates to company policies, work practices, and the applicable state and/or federal guidance. Employees must verify that this document is the most recent version of the company SOPs. Employees are also strongly advised to review relevant state and/or federal guidance, which may stipulate program-specific procedures, in advance of task implementation.

This SOP is designed to provide the user with a general outline for conducting soil sampling and assumes the user is familiar with basic field procedures, such as recording field notes (SOP 1), utility location (SOP 2), sample shipment procedures (SOP 3), sample collection and quality assurance procedures (SOP 4), investigation-derived waste (IDW) management procedures (SOP 5), equipment decontamination (SOP 6), and use and calibration of sampling and monitoring equipment (SOPs 7 and 8). This SOP does not cover investigation planning, nor does it cover the evaluation of the analytical results. These topics are more appropriately addressed in a project-specific work plan. Before soil sampling, be sure to review the project-specific work plan or Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) and any applicable state and federal guidelines or sampling procedures.

Consult and involve your assigned compliance professional during all phases of soil sampling. Do not ship hazardous waste samples without first consulting a company compliance professional.

All sampling and monitoring references must be available for consultation in the field, including:

- Company's SOPs
- Applicable state and federal guidelines or sampling procedures
- Manufacturer's manuals
- Project-specific work plan and HASP
- QAPP

9.4 GENERAL PROCEDURES

Soil samples are collected using a variety of techniques and equipment, depending on the type (e.g., surface, subsurface) and purpose (e.g., lithological logging, headspace evaluation, laboratory analysis) of the sampling, and most sampling events employ more than one equipment type or methodology. Subsurface soil sampling, for example, often includes sample collection from split-spoon, macro-core, or other dedicated sampling devices advanced into the subsurface. Recovered cores are often logged (using a Munsell color chart and other logging aids), screened for volatile organic compounds (VOCs) using a PID, and sampled for laboratory analysis using disposable stainless steel spoons or other discrete sampling devices.

Each sampling configuration is associated with a unique set of sampling equipment requirements and techniques. The selected procedures and equipment are project-specific and should be discussed by the project team before arriving onsite. All types of soil sampling, regardless of the equipment used, share common handling and management procedures that are designed to ensure the integrity of the samples collected. These procedures include:

- The use of new, disposable or decontaminated sampling equipment
- The use and rotation of the appropriate PPE
- Selection of a suitable sampling location and staging area

Wear a clean pair of new, disposable gloves each time a different sample is collected and don the gloves immediately prior to collection. This limits the possibility of cross-contamination from accidental contact with gloves soiled during collection of the previous sample. The gloves must not come in contact with the medium being sampled and must be changed any time during sample collection when their cleanliness is compromised. In no case should gloved hands be used as a soil sampling device; if the

soil cannot be transferred directly from the sampling device to the laboratory-supplied containers, use a stainless steel spoon or spatula to transfer the soil from the sampling device to the laboratory-supplied containers.

9.4.1 EQUIPMENT SELECTION

Collect all samples using either new, disposable equipment, such as polyethylene liners or single-use stainless steel spoons; or properly decontaminated sampling equipment, such as hand augers, split-spoon samplers, or trowels. Soil sampling equipment should be selected based on the analytical requirements of the project and the project-specific conditions likely to be encountered. The equipment should be constructed of non-reactive, non-leachable materials (e.g., stainless steel, Teflon®, Teflon®-coated steel, polyethylene, polypropylene) which are compatible with the chemical constituents at the site. When choosing sampling equipment, give consideration to:

- the types of soil or fill present
- the required depth of the sample
- the volume of sample required
- the analytes of interest

Select the types of equipment and decontamination procedures based on the types of sampling to be performed. Decontamination may require multiple steps or differing cleaning methods, depending on the sampling goals (see SOP 6 for decontamination procedures). In no case should disposable, single use materials (e.g., acetate liners, soil baskets) be used to collect more than one sample.

9.4.2 SAMPLING CONSIDERATIONS

In preparing for sampling, you should perform the following activities (with all observations and measurements noted in the field book):

- Perform a quick reconnaissance of the site to identify sampling locations and evaluate the accessibility (physical obstructions, slope, overhead and underground utilities) to the sampling location.
- Record the approximate ambient air temperature, precipitation, wind (direction and speed), tide, and other field conditions in the field book. In addition, any site-specific conditions or situations that could potentially affect the samples should be recorded.
- Record a description of the sampling location and the approximate distance to and direction from at least one permanent feature.
- Should any sample location require a vertical or horizontal offset from the proposed location, indicate the reason and record the actual sample location in the field book.

Survey the breathing zone around the sampling location with the appropriate air quality meter(s), as necessary (see HASP), to ensure that the level of PPE is appropriate. When sampling soil, it is important to find a suitable sampling location away from any sources of cross-contamination that could compromise the integrity of the samples. Consider the following:

- Position the sample collection area away from fuel-powered equipment, such as drill rigs or excavators, and upwind of other site activities (e.g., purging, sampling, decontamination) that could influence the sample. This is particularly important when screening samples in the field for VOCs with a PID, but should not be limited to the active sample collection.
- Store samples already collected from the field for laboratory analysis in clean containers in an ice-filled cooler (as required) and securely stage, if possible, in an uncontaminated area of the site.

9.5 SOIL SAMPLE COLLECTION

Soil samples can be collected from surface or subsurface depths, depending on the project requirements. Surface soils are generally those collected at depths less than 2 feet below ground surface (bgs) and can be collected using trowels, soil probes, shovels, or hand augers. Be aware that some states have specific definitions of what constitutes a surface soil sample. Subsurface soils are

generally deeper and require specialized equipment to recover the samples. In most cases, subsurface soils will be collected using a drill rig or excavator to prevent the soil from being mixed with soils from a shallower interval.

Push or drive the method-specific sampling equipment (e.g., trowel, hand auger, hollow corers, split-spoon, direct push sampler, roto-sonic core barrel sampler, excavator bucket) into the soil to the desired sampling depth using decontaminated equipment. Record in the field book the depth interval through which the sampler was advanced and, when using a split-spoon sampler, the number of blows needed to drive the sampler 6 inches. If additional soil is needed to provide sufficient sample volume, repeat this step taking care to ensure that the same depth interval is collected during the resample. Use core catchers on the leading end of the sampler (if available) for soils that lack cohesiveness and are subject to falling out of the sampler (i.e., poor recovery).

Withdraw the sampling equipment from the interval, open the sampler (as appropriate), and collect the sample in a safe location (e.g., avoid entering an excavation by collecting the sample from an excavator bucket at ground surface). Samples collected from an excavator bucket should be taken from the center of the material to ensure material is representative of the desired sampling interval.

Recovered soils should be placed on plastic sheeting in a consistent manner such that the orientation of the sample (i.e., which end is “up”) and the depth interval is readily apparent to the sampling personnel. Measure the length of the material recovered relative to the interval the sampler was advanced in percent notation (i.e., 75%) or as a fraction of the total length of the sample interval (i.e., [3/4] indicating 3 out of 4 feet) and record this information in the field book. If field screening for organic vapors is required, break or cut the soil core every 3 to 4 inches and quickly scan the breaks in the core material with the appropriate air quality monitoring equipment (e.g., PID) and record the readings and approximate depth in the field book. These measurements can be used to select appropriate soil samples for VOC or headspace analysis, if required (see procedures below).

9.5.1 UNDISTURBED SAMPLE COLLECTION

Undisturbed soil samples collected for geotechnical parameters (e.g., porosity, permeability) generally require the use of specialized undisturbed sampling equipment (e.g., Shelby tube or sealed Geoprobe® liner) and collection procedures. The sampling device, once retrieved, is typically capped or sealed (to maintain the sample in its relatively undisturbed state), labeled with the sample name, orientation of the sample (i.e., top and bottom), depth interval, and shipped to the appropriate geotechnical laboratory. Follow sample labeling, preparation, and shipping procedures in SOPs 3 and 4.

9.5.2 VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUND SAMPLING

Analytical soil samples for VOC analysis should be collected immediately after screening with the PID to avoid loss of constituents to the atmosphere. Transfer the soil from the portion of the soil core to be sampled (usually the area where the highest PID readings were observed) directly into the sample containers; do not homogenize soils for VOC analysis. Place the soil in the sampling container such that no headspace is present above the soil when the cover is placed on the jar. If U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Method 5035 (e.g., Encore® samplers) is required, follow manufacturer’s specifications and company recommended shipping procedures. Collect quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) samples, if appropriate, in accordance with SOP 4, the project-specific work plan, and the QAPP.

9.5.3 SOIL HEADSPACE ANALYSIS

Collect soil samples for field-based headspace analysis, if required as part of the project-specific work plan, after collecting the VOC sample. First, examine the soil and remove coarse gravel, organic material (e.g., roots, grass, and woody material) and any other debris. Transfer the soil from the portion of the soil core to be sampled and place in a heavy-duty zipper-style plastic bag and seal the bag. Label the sample indicating the sampling location, depth, and date. Shake the sample vigorously for approximately 15 seconds to disaggregate the sample and expose as much surface area of the soil as possible (to release the VOCs to the atmosphere within the bag). If necessary, warm the sample to room temperature (70° Fahrenheit, [°F]) by placing the bag in a heated room or vehicle. This step is critical when the ambient temperature is below 32°F.

The VOCs, if present, will volatilize into the sealed bag. Allow the bag to stand (to achieve equilibrium) for approximately 15 minutes. Carefully open the bag slightly and place the tip of the PID into the opening. Do not insert the tip of the probe into the soil material and avoid the uptake of water droplets. Allow the PID to equilibrate and record the highest PID measurement noted. Erratic PID responses may result from high organic vapor concentrations or elevated headspace moisture. If these conditions exist, qualify the headspace data in the field book. It is also important to record the ambient temperature, humidity, and whether moisture was present in plastic bag. Duplicate 10% of the headspace samples by collecting two samples from the same location. Generally, duplicate sample values should be consistent to $\pm 20\%$. Samples collected for headspace screening cannot be retained for laboratory analysis.

9.5.4 SEMI- AND NON-VOLATILE ANALYTICAL SAMPLE COLLECTION

Collect remaining organic samples then inorganic samples in the following order of volatilization sensitivity:

- Extractable organics, petroleum hydrocarbons, aggregate organics, and oil and grease
- Metals
- Inorganic non-metallic and physical and aggregate properties
- Microbiological samples
- Radionuclides

If homogenization is required, mix the soils (using stainless steel bowls and spoons, or other appropriate equipment) to a homogeneous particle size and texture. Transfer the soils from the sampler or mixing bowl to the sample container using a decontaminated or dedicated stainless steel spoon or spatula. Collect QA/QC samples in accordance with SOP 4, the project-specific work plan, and the QAPP.

If approved by the appropriate regulatory agency and specified in the project-specific work plan, composite soil samples can be collected to minimize the total number of analytical samples. Composite samples consist of equal aliquots (same sample size) of soil from each location being sampled (e.g., from each borehole or from multiple areas of a soil pile), by mixing the soil to a homogeneous particle size and texture using new or decontaminated stainless steel bowls and a stainless steel spoon or trowel. Transfer the contents to the appropriate laboratory supplied sample container using a stainless steel spoon. Collect QA/QC samples in accordance with SOP 4, the project-specific work plan, and the QAPP, if required.

If necessary, conduct field tests or screening on soils in accordance with the project-specific work plan and manufacturer's specifications for field testing equipment.

9.5.5 SAMPLE LABELING AND PREPARATION FOR SHIPMENT

Once collected, prepare the soil samples for offsite laboratory analysis:

- 1 Clean the outside of the sample container with paper towels or appropriate materials, if necessary
- 2 Affix a sample tag or label to each sample container and complete all required information (sample number, date, time, depth interval, sampler's initials, analysis, preservatives, place of collection)
- 3 Place clear tape over the tag or label (if non-waterproof labels are used)
- 4 Preserve samples immediately after collection by placing them into an insulated cooler filled with bagged wet ice to maintain a temperature of approximately 4°Celsius (if required by analytical method)
- 5 Record the sample designation, date, time, depth interval, number of sampling containers, analytical methods, and the sampler's name in the field book and on the chain-of-custody form
- 6 Complete the chain-of-custody forms with appropriate sampling information, including:
 - Location
 - Sample name
 - Sample collection date and time
 - Number of sample containers
 - Analytical method

- 7 Complete sample packing and ship in accordance with proper procedures

Do not ship hazardous waste samples without first consulting a company compliance professional.

9.6 SOIL CLASSIFICATION

Soil classification should be performed whenever soil samples are being collected to provide context for the analysis. Follow the Unified Soil Classification System (USCS) logging procedures as described in ATSM D2488¹. The emphasis of soil classification in the field must be on describing the soils using ALL of the required descriptors; categorization of the USCS group name or symbol alone may not provide details about the soils that could later prove useful. Avoid geologic interpretation or the use of local formation names, which are often difficult to determine in the field without the regional framework. Record ALL of the following information for each sample interval/soil type in the field book:

- Depth interval
- USCS group name (e.g., lean clay, elastic silt, well-graded gravel)
- USCS group symbol (e.g., cl, mh, gw)
- Color, using Munsell chart (in moist condition)
- Percent of cobbles, boulders, gravel, sand, and fines (approximate; by volume). Use the following standard descriptors for the textural percentages:
 - Trace: <5%²
 - Few: 5-10%
 - Little: 15-25%
 - Some: 30-45%
 - Mostly: 50-100%
- **Particle-size range:**
 - Gravel—fine (0.2-inch to 0.75-inch), medium, coarse (0.75-inch to 3 inch)
 - Sand—fine (0.003-inch to 0.02-inch), medium (0.02-inch to 0.08-inch), coarse (0.08-inch to 0.2-inch)
 - Fines – clay or silt
- **For gravel and sand:**
 - Particle angularity: angular, subangular, subrounded, rounded
 - Particle shape: (if appropriate) flat, elongated, flat and elongated
 - Maximum particle size or dimension
 - Hardness (under hammer blow) of coarse sand and larger particles
- **For fine-grained soil (i.e., clay and silt):**
 - Plasticity: non-plastic, low, medium, high
 - Dry strength: none, low, medium, high, very high
 - Dilatancy: none, slow, rapid
 - Toughness: low, medium, high
- Odor (mention only if organic or unusual; factual descriptions only, no interpretations)
- Moisture: dry, moist, wet
- Additional comments: presence of roots or root holes, presence of mica, gypsum, etc., surface coatings on coarse-grained particles, caving or sloughing of auger hole or trench sides, difficulty in augering or excavating, etc.

For intact samples also include:

- Consistency (fine-grained soils only): very soft, soft, firm, hard, very hard
- Structure: stratified, laminated, fissured, lensed, homogeneous
- Cementation: weak, moderate, strong

¹ Note that certain states/regulatory programs may require soil classification under a secondary system (e.g., US Department of Agriculture) or the use of hydrochloric acid to test the reaction with soil (none, weak, strong).

² The use of “Trace” for describing the fraction of clay soils is inappropriate for field-based logs as clay contents of less than 20% in fine-grained soils cannot be reliably determined in the field.



Example descriptions, using the information listed above, would read as follows:

- 8-10' – Well Graded Sand, SW (5YR 2/6) fine- to medium-grained sand, trace medium sub-angular rounded gravel (less than 0.5-inch diameter); medium dense to dense; wet; moderate petroleum-like odor between 9 feet bgs and 10 feet bgs.
- 10-12' – Lean Clay with Gravel, CL (5YR 2/6) some fine- to coarse-grained angular to subangular gravels (less than 0.25-inch diameter), trace fine- to medium-grained rounded sands; very stiff; low plasticity; low dry strength; no dilatancy; moist; no odors.

9.7 CLOSING NOTES

Once sampling is completed, restore and mark all sample locations with spray paint, stakes, or other appropriate marker for future reference or survey in accordance with the project-specific work plan. Decontaminate all equipment prior to departure and properly manage all PPE and IDW in conformance with applicable regulations.