

14 January 1998

Re: NEPA Technical Inquiry 0040 - Copy of GSA Publication

Dear NEPA Call-In User:

This letter is in response to your March 3, 1997, request for a copy of the GSA publication, "PBS 07115," which you stated is an environmental publication addressing sampling methodology for soil, burial, and fungal contamination. You stated the request for this publication came from a contact in a GSA Region.

NEPA Call-In reviewed the GSA Memorandum, "Checklist of Active and Canceled GSA Central Office Orders and Instructional Letters," January 2, 1997, document number Checklist 95-2. This checklist does not contain a publication numbered "PBS 07115," nor does it contain any publications on environmental soil sampling.

We then contacted the GSA Publications Office. A representative stated there are currently no publications with the number "PBS 07115." The representative recommended we contact the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Program Manager, PBS Cultural and Environmental Affairs Division. NEPA Call-In contacted the Program Manager who stated was not aware of nor did he have a copy of the publication.

NEPA Call-In was unable to locate the requested document; however, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has several related documents:

1. "Compendium of ERT Soil Sampling and Surface Geophysics Procedures," EPA Office of Emergency and Remedial Response, Document EPA/540/P-91-006, January 1991;
2. "Guidance for Performing Site Inspections Under CERCLA," EPA Office of Emergency and Remedial Response, Document EPA/540-R-92-021, September 1992; and
3. "A Compendium of Superfund Field Operations Methods," EPA Office of Emergency and Remedial Response, Document EPA/540/P-87-001, December 1987.

We also suggest the following factors be considered prior to selecting a soil sampling methodology:

1. Determine if the soil being sampled is surface soil (12 inches or less below the ground surface) or subsurface soil (below 12 inches). A variety of sample collection methods and tools are available, such as hydraulic push sampling techniques (geoprobe), or use of a drilling program utilizing hollow-stem augers and split spoon samples appropriate for various soil sampling depths;
2. Determine the likely contaminants, such as volatile organic compounds (VOCs), pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), metals, or other chemical compounds to ensure proper sample collection, preservation, and analytical techniques; and
3. Determine the potential contamination level (low, medium or high) and applicable regulatory requirements (such as PCB sampling under the

Toxic Substances Control Act) which will determine sampling schemes, analytical methods, clearance samples, labeling, and shipping requirements.

Since you stated you did not know the particular need of your contact in the region, you did not want NEPA Call-In to provided other documents to you at this time. However, NEPA Call-In is available to work with you and your contact in the GSA Region to evaluate site information and prepare an appropriate site sampling strategy. We can also provide any of the referenced documents at your request.

The materials in this TI have been prepared for use by GSA employees and contractors and are made available at this site only to permit the general public to learn more about NEPA. The information is not intended to constitute legal advice or substitute for obtaining legal advice from an attorney licensed in your state and may or may not reflect the most current legal developments. Readers should also be aware that this response is based upon laws, regulations, and policies in place at the time it was prepared and that this response will not be updated to reflect changes to those laws, regulations and policies.

Sincerely,

(Original Signed)

NEPA Call-In Researcher