

## **ATTACHMENT 1: QUALITY ASSURANCE/QUALITY CONTROL SUMMARY**

This attachment summarizes the field and laboratory quality assurance (QA), data verification and data validation procedures utilized for the JPL groundwater monitoring program. Data validation was performed by an independent contractor, Laboratory Data Consultants, Inc., of Carlsbad, California. Data verification and validation indicated that all volatile organic compounds (VOCs), perchlorate, and metals results obtained from the first quarter 2015 groundwater monitoring event were acceptable for their intended use of characterizing the aquifer quality.

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Field and laboratory quality control (QC) samples were collected and analyzed to fulfill quality requirements. Proper sample collection and handling procedures were utilized to ensure the integrity of the analytical results. A comprehensive QA/QC plan for groundwater monitoring is described in the *Work Plan for Performing a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study* (Ebasco, 1993).

### **FIELD QUALITY ASSURANCE/QUALITY CONTROL**

The field QA/QC samples collected for JPL groundwater monitoring included field duplicate samples, equipment rinsate blanks and trip blanks. The QC sample results were used for the qualitative evaluation of the data. Table 1-1 summarizes analytical results for the field QC samples during the first quarter 2015 groundwater monitoring event.

**Field Duplicate Samples.** Duplicate samples were collected to evaluate the precision of the sample collection process. Duplicate samples for VOCs, perchlorate and/or metals were collected from monitoring wells MW-6, MW-7, MW-15, MW-16, MW-19 (Screen 3), MW-23 (Screen 2), and MW-26 (Screen 1). The analytical results for the field duplicate samples were comparable to the results of the original groundwater samples for VOCs (Table 1) and metals (Table 2), with the exception of total chromium in the MW-7 duplicate pair. The source of the discrepancy in total chromium results could not be determined.

**Equipment Rinsate Blanks.** Equipment rinsate blanks were collected each day that non-dedicated sampling equipment was used. The equipment rinsate blanks, consisting of distilled water run through the sampling equipment after decontamination, were analyzed for all contaminants of concern to monitor possible cross-contamination of the samples due to inadequate decontamination. Toluene was detected at a low level (0.11J  $\mu\text{g/L}$ ) in one equipment blank. The detection was below the reporting limit of 0.5  $\mu\text{g/L}$ . Total chromium was detected at a low level (0.54J  $\mu\text{g/L}$ ) in one equipment blank. The detection was below the reporting limit of 3.0  $\mu\text{g/L}$ . The source of the blank contamination could not be determined. Detected toluene and total chromium concentrations in the equipment blank were compared to the detected concentrations in the associated monitoring wells during the data validation process to determine if data validation qualifiers were necessary. No other VOC contaminants, metals or tentatively identified compounds (TICs) were detected in the equipment blanks as shown in Table 1-1.

**Trip Blanks.** Trip blanks, which consisted of reagent-grade water in vials transported with the sample bottles to and from the field, were submitted to the laboratory with each shipment of groundwater samples. Trip blanks were used to help identify cross-contamination of groundwater samples during transport and sample handling procedures. No VOC contaminants or TICs were detected in the trip blanks as shown in Table 1-1.

**Source Blanks.** Two source blanks which consisted of distilled water used by sampling personnel for equipment decontamination were collected during the sampling event. This QC sample serves as a check for any contamination present in the source water. Toluene was detected at a low level (0.13J µg/L) in one source blank. The detection was below the reporting limit of 3.0 µg/L. The source of the blank contamination could not be determined. Detected toluene concentrations in the source blank were compared to the detected concentrations in the associated monitoring wells during the data validation process to determine if data validation qualifiers were necessary. No other VOC contaminants, metals or TICs were detected in the source blanks as shown in Table 1-1.

## **LABORATORY QUALITY ASSURANCE/QUALITY CONTROL**

Laboratory QC samples included surrogate compounds (for VOC analyses), matrix spike samples, blank spike samples, and method blanks. The results of the laboratory QC samples were used by the laboratory to determine the accuracy and precision of the analytical techniques, and to identify anomalous results due to laboratory contamination or instrument malfunction.

### **DATA VERIFICATION AND VALIDATION**

The purpose of data verification and validation is to ensure that the data collected meet the data quality objectives (DQOs) outlined in the Quality Assurance Project Plan of the Groundwater Monitoring Plan (Ebasco, 1993).

**Data Verification.** Data verification is a review of the analytical data that includes confirming that the sample identification numbers on the laboratory reports match those on the chain-of-custody records. Data verification also includes a review of the analytical data reports to confirm that all samples were analyzed and all required analytes were quantified for each sample.

**Data Validation.** Data validation is a systematic review of the analytical data to determine the compliance with established method performance criteria. Validation of a data package included review of the technical holding time requirements, review of sample preparation, review of the initial and continuing calibration data, review and recalculation of the laboratory QC sample data, review of the equipment performance, reconciliation of the raw data with the reduced results, identification of data anomalies, and qualification of data to identify data usability limitations.

Data validation was performed by an independent contractor, Laboratory Data Consultants, Inc., of Carlsbad, CA. All of the data provided by BC Laboratories, Inc., of Bakersfield, California were validated. Ninety percent of the data were subjected to Level III validation and 10 percent of the data were subjected to Level IV validation in accordance with the EPA Contract Laboratory Program National Functional Guidelines for Organic and Inorganic Data Review (U.S. EPA, 2008; 2010).

**Data Validation Qualifiers.** Analytical data were qualified based on the data validation. Data qualifiers were assigned in accordance with EPA guidelines.

All samples were analyzed within the analytical holding times. Data validation indicated that all of the data from the first quarter 2015 groundwater monitoring event

were acceptable for their intended use of characterizing aquifer quality.

The data validation reports are included in Attachment 2.

## **REFERENCES**

Ebasco. 1993. *Work Plan for Performing a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study*. National Aeronautics and Space Administration Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, California. December.

U.S. EPA. 2008. *USEPA Contract Laboratory Program National Functional Guidelines for Superfund Organic Methods Data Review*. June.

U.S. EPA. 2010. *USEPA Contract Laboratory Program National Functional Guidelines for Inorganic Superfund Data Review*. January.

**TABLE 1-1**  
**SUMMARY OF CONTAMINANTS DETECTED IN QUALITY CONTROL SAMPLES**  
**COLLECTED DURING THE JAN/FEB 2015 SAMPLING EVENT**

(All concentrations reported in µg/L.)

Blank Type	Sample ID Number	Sampling Location(s)	Total Chromium	Methylene Chloride	1,2,3-Trichloropropane	2-Butanone	Other Organic Compounds		TICs	
EQUIPMENT BLANK	EB-1-01/26/15	MW-19, MW-20	1 U	0.5 U	1 U	NA	Toluene	0.11 J		
EQUIPMENT BLANK	EB-2-01/27/15	MW-14, MW-24	1.2 U	0.5 U	1 U	NA				
EQUIPMENT BLANK	EB-3-01/28/15	MW-17, MW-18	3 U	0.5 U	1 U	NA				
EQUIPMENT BLANK	EB-4-01/29/15	MW-4, MW-22, MW-26	3 U	0.5 U	1 U	NA				
EQUIPMENT BLANK	EB-5-01/30/15	MW-5, MW-6, MW-12, MW-15, MW-16, MW-23	3 U	0.5 U	1 U	NA				
EQUIPMENT BLANK	EB-6-02/04/15	MW-10, MW-11, MW-25	3 U	0.5 U	1 U	NA				
EQUIPMENT BLANK	EB-7-02/05/15	MW-3, MW-21	0.54 J	0.5 U	1 U	NA				
SOURCE BLANK	SB-1-01/26/15	--	0.77 U	0.5 U	1 U	NA	Toluene	0.13 J		
SOURCE BLANK	SB-2-01/30/15	--	3 U	0.5 U	1 U	NA				
TRIP BLANK	TB-1-01/26/15	MW-19, MW-20	NA	0.5 U	1 U	NA				
TRIP BLANK	TB-2-01/27/15	MW-14, MW-24	NA	0.5 U	1 U	NA				
TRIP BLANK	TB-3-01/28/15	MW-17, MW-18	NA	0.5 U	1 U	NA				
TRIP BLANK	TB-4-01/29/15	MW-4, MW-22, MW-26	NA	0.5 U	1 U	NA				
TRIP BLANK	TB-5-01/30/15	MW-5, MW-6, MW-12, MW-15, MW-16, MW-23	NA	0.5 U	1 U	NA				
TRIP BLANK	TB-6-02/04/15	--	NA	0.5 U	1 U	NA				
TRIP BLANK	TB-7-02/04/15	MW-10, MW-11, MW-25	NA	0.5 U	1 U	NA				
TRIP BLANK	TB-8-02/05/15	MW-3, MW-21	NA	0.5 U	1 U	NA				

**Notes**

- NA Not Analyzed
- J Analyte concentration is an estimated value
- U Analyte was analyzed for but not detected at or above the stated limit