

Subject: Inspector Generals Exit Briefing covering the IG Draft Report on "In-Vitro Bioassay Services".

Following private discussions with the IG audit team and the telephone conference exit briefing held January 13, I would interpret Oak Ridge IG's recommendations as follows:

- all internal dosimetry programs should use the Rocky Flats contracts with Quanterra and GEL for the four routine analyses covered (tritium and plutonium, americium, and uranium by alpha spectrometry)
- other existing contracts (to be determined) should be amended to allow submission by any site for other needed isotopes.
- On-site labs should capture all their costs (labor, materials, equipment, facilities) so an equitable comparison with commercial lab costs may be made.

There were further discussions between DOE and ORIG after the telephone conference ended, but I have not heard any additional details or seen a final report from ORIG. However, it was clear that the ORIG wants a DOE-wide bioassay contract(s) with lower prices. Virgine Ideker, RFETS, was previously tasked by DOE-MA to head a team that would prepare an Addendum to the recently awarded ICPT National Agreements for Analytical Services. The addendum would incorporate a national specification for Bioassay Services. Once the review and approval process is completed it would be added for use as an addendum to the ICPT agreements referenced above.

I believe it is imperative that the users of bioassay data are included on the team developing the contract requirements. Otherwise, we will all be forced to live with what is available. If you are willing to serve on this committee, please contact Virgene at Virgene.Ideker@rfets.gov or by phone at 303-966-3437 (note: she will be on vacation through 1/28). Don't wait for the contract to become a reality to complain.

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