

## 6.4 Community-Operated Environmental Surveillance Program

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Since 1991, citizens living near Hanford have been actively participating in site environmental surveillance activities through the Community-Operated Environmental Surveillance Program. The program consists of two components: radiological air sampling and agricultural product sampling.

During 1996, nine radiological air sampling stations were operated by local teachers at selected locations around the perimeter of the site. Each station consisted of equipment for collecting air samples and for monitoring ambient radiation levels. Four of the nine stations also included large, lighted informational displays that provided real-time meteorological and radiological information as well as general information on station equipment, sample types, and analyses (Figure 6.4.1). The station managers' names



**Figure 6.4.1.** Community Members See Environmental Surveillance in Action at Four of Nine Local Community-Operated Environmental Surveillance Stations

and telephone numbers were provided on the four displays for anyone desiring additional information about the purpose of the station, station equipment, or analytical results.

Two teachers from schools located near the stations were selected to operate each station. Each pair of teachers was responsible for collecting a variety of air samples, preparing the samples and collection records for submission to the analytical laboratory, monitoring the performance of station equipment, performing minor station maintenance, and participating in scheduled training. They also served as spokespersons for the Community-Operated Environmental Surveillance Program and were points of contact for local citizens. Pacific Northwest National Laboratory staff worked closely with the teachers to provide training, maintain station equipment and displays, and coordinate sampling and analytical efforts with other Hanford environmental surveillance activities. Analytical results for samples collected at these stations in 1996 are discussed in Section 4.1, "Air Surveillance." Results of gamma radiation measurements are discussed briefly in Section 4.7, "External Radiation Surveillance."

In 1996, the community-operated air sampling network expanded from eight to nine stations. In addition to the stations operating in 1995 in Basin City, Richland, Pasco, Kennewick, north Franklin County, Othello, Mattawa, and Toppenish, Washington, the program now includes a station in Benton City (see Figure 4.1.1). The new station is located on the campus of the Kiona-Benton High School and has not been enhanced with an informational display.

Citizen participation in farm product sampling activities in 1996 involved obtaining agricultural products from students living in areas downwind of the site. Middle-school-aged students, including 4-H Club members, were asked to grow leafy vegetables that are not grown commercially around Hanford but are common in local gardens. Portions of these vegetables were purchased and

analyzed for radioactive contaminants. Following analysis, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory staff visited the schools to discuss the results with the students and

their teachers. Analytical results for these samples are discussed in Section 4.4, "Food and Farm Product Surveillance."