

## 7.4 Community-Operated Environmental Surveillance Program

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Since 1991, citizens living near the Hanford Site have been actively participating in site environmental surveillance activities through the Community-Operated Environmental Surveillance Program. During 1997, nine radiological air sampling stations were operated by local teachers at selected locations around the site perimeter. These stations are located in Basin City, Richland, Pasco, Kennewick, north Franklin County, Othello, Mattawa, Toppenish, and Benton City, Washington (see Figure 4.1.1). Each station consists of equipment for collecting air samples



**Figure 7.4.1.** Community Members See Environmental Surveillance in Action at a Community-Operated Environmental Surveillance Station in Richland

and for monitoring ambient radiation levels. Four of the nine stations also include large, lighted informational displays that provide real-time meteorological and radiological information as well as general information on station equipment, sample types, and analyses (Figure 7.4.1). The station managers' names and telephone numbers are 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 is 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 serve as spokespersons for the Community-Operated Environmental Surveillance Program and are 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 1997 are discussed in Section 4.1, "Air Surveillance." Results of gamma radiation measurements are discussed briefly in Section 4.7, "External Radiation Surveillance."