

Introduction

The confidence with which one can propose a technical solution to any problem is directly related to the reliability of the information that is available to define the problem. For that reason, the topic of Quality Control in Remedial Site Investigations: Hazardous and Industrial Solid Waste Testing is of great importance to the current major effort being undertaken to find solutions to correct existing or potential threats to human health or the environment or both.

This symposium provides a state-of-the-art review of current methods to collect, prepare, and analyze samples. It also provides, for the first time, the results of a massive effort to review the quality control/quality assurance of the laboratories performing analysis under the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) contract laboratory program. This symposium contains papers reporting on this program, which is believed to be the largest undertaking ever to evaluate the performance of multiple laboratories using the same analytical techniques. The multi-laboratory data provide an unequalled opportunity to gain insight into the reliability of analytical methods.

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