Gravatt, Dan

From: Hooper, Charles A.
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2014 4:39 PM
To: Gravatt, Dan
Subject: RE: West Lake Landfill: question on data interpretation from USGS

I think just use the result but I'll run it by Ken Deason again. I'll have to look at my emails, but someone in water (R7 or HQ) answered one of our other water questions.

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From: Gravatt, Dan
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2014 2:45 PM
To: Hammerschmidt, Ron; Hooper, Charles A.
Cc: Tapia, Cecilia; Field, Jeff; Jefferson, Matthew
Subject: West Lake Landfill: question on data interpretation from USGS

Ron, Chuck,
Got a call from John Schumacher at USGS who is starting to dig into his analysis of the PRPs' recent groundwater data. He has a question about how to decide whether a radionuclide result exceeds an MCL (or a background value) based on the combined statistical uncertainty associated with the result. He has two approaches in mind and would like our thoughts on which we want him to use:

- Just use the result without considering CSU (ie. 5.5 pCi/L of radium, regardless of the CSU, exceeds the 5 pCi/L MCL); OR
- Use the result minus the CSU (ie. 5.5 pCi/L +/- the CSU of 0.8 pCi/L becomes 4.7 pCi/L which doesn't exceed the MCL).

I can see the merits and defensibility of either approach. Is there an EPA policy/precedent on which approach to use, or a need to use some third way of handling the data? If you know of someone else in the Region who can answer,this, please ask them and get back to me ASAP so we can help John move forward with this analysis.

Thanks,
Daniel R. Gravatt, PG
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Principles and integrity are expensive, but they are among the very few things worth having.

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