



ITRC TEAM PROJECT SUMMARY STATEMENT PRE-IMPLEMENTATION

ITRC Unexploded Ordnance Team
Quality Considerations for Munitions Response Projects (UXO-5)
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TECHNOLOGY/METHODOLOGY SUMMARY

State of the Technology/Methodology

The Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) Team believes that the ultimate success of a munitions response (MR) project is wholly dependent on the quality of the work performed. To ensure quality, the MR project requirements must be precisely stated and understood, and a plan must be developed and put in place such that those requirements are met. Although the resources spent on such planning may initially appear unproductive and costly, the penalty for ineffective planning includes greater cost and lost time due to rework.

Although quality concepts are well known in the business and industry arenas, their application to environmental projects remains inconsistent. In 2005 the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Defense, and Department of Energy released *Uniform Federal Policy for Quality Assurance Project Plans (UFP-QAPP)*. Created to address real and perceived inconsistencies and deficiencies in data quality, this tool can be applied to many different projects, promoting efficiency and cost-effectiveness. The UXO Team supports application of the UFP-QAPP to MR.

Conclusion: By becoming involved early in the planning of the MR and ensuring use of an up-front, whole-system process approach to planning, state regulators will realize increased efficiency and effectiveness, early detection of problems, and reduced cost of lost time due to rework and will have greater confidence in the overall quality of the product.

The Future

The UXO Team expects that quality processes will continue to be successfully applied to MR projects. As a result, the body of knowledge available to the MR community will continue to grow from case studies and lessons learned, bringing costs down and providing sufficient confidence in results for defensible decision making.

TEAM SUMMARY

ITRC Team Process Attributes

The UXO Team is composed of state regulators, industry affiliate partners, and federal representatives. To develop UXO-5 and its companion Internet-based training (IBT), the UXO Team identified the processes that compose an MR project and used its diverse,

collective expertise to explore how quality and quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) activities are defined, identified, implemented, and assessed throughout the work flow of a typical MR project.

Key Learning

In developing UXO-5, the team encountered and overcame many challenges. Among them were lack of consensus on the basic definitions of quality, QA, and QC and concerns about avoiding prescriptiveness of the guidance without sacrificing comprehensiveness. The team overcame these challenges by defining quality as conformance to requirements, adopting the process approach to manage quality, and applying it to the processes most commonly performed in an MR.

UXO Team Next Steps

Distribution, IBT offerings, and conference/symposia outreach efforts on the part of the UXO Team will ensure that the findings and recommendations contained in UXO-5 find their way into the hands of state regulators, contractors, and stakeholders.