

Department of Energy Consolidated Audit Program (DOECAP): Improves Quality and Confidence While Reducing Costs and Liability

The DOECAP implements annual performance qualification audits of environmental analytical laboratories and commercial waste treatment, storage and disposal facilities (TSDFs) to support complex-wide DOE Mission activities. First formulated in 2002, the intent of this corporate HSS Departmental Program is to eliminate redundant audits by DOE field sites, achieve standardization, minimize DOE liabilities and risks, and reduce costs. This crosscutting Program incorporates active participation from the following DOE sites:



- Oak Ridge Sites
- Lawrence Berkeley & Lawrence Livermore
- Hanford Site
- Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
- Los Alamos National Laboratory
- Idaho National Laboratory
- Savannah River Site
- Nevada Test Site
- Pantex Plant
- Sandia National Laboratories
- Thomas Jefferson Laboratory
- Legacy Management & Fossil Energy Sites



The DOECAP represents an efficient and effective investment by leveraging funding resources to ensure confidence in field analytical data and accountability of waste treatment and disposal. Standardization of audit methods, processes, and procedures provides DOE decision-makers a level of confidence regarding the validity, reliability and defensibility of data. This process also ensures DOE accountability for radioactive waste and other hazardous waste being treated and disposed at TSDFs; thereby, verifying compliance with DOE Order 435.1 requirements and other applicable Federal/State laws and regulations.

It is estimated the Program eliminates the potential for over 100 additional field audits with a cost savings to DOE of \$3.6M per year.

DOE Not the Only Beneficiary of the Program:

A primary audited TSDF offered the following evaluation at the recent Analytical Services Program workshop. *As a result of participation in the DOECAP, our facility has experienced positive cultural and attitude changes, including; a conscious decision to improve, increased employee ownership in the QA System, an improved compliance culture, fewer occupational injuries/illnesses, and an improved relationship with regulators leading to fewer regulatory penalties. The DOECAP criteria have become the litmus test for our corrective actions.*

A principle laboratory group supporting the DOE complex offered the following assessment of the DOECAP. *The DOECAP provides a mature program that implements consistent, fair, and rigorous audits. It has far and away the greatest level of auditor training and experience, and ensures consistent standards are being applied between laboratories.*

FY09 DOECAP Auditing Activities:

- 26 Analytical Environmental Laboratories
- 1 Industrial Hygiene Laboratory
- 1 Interim Audit Finding Surveillance
- 7 Radiological TSDFs
- 4 Non-radiological TSDFs

DOECAP Website: <https://doecap.oro.doe.gov/>

