**QAPP Worksheet #13: Secondary Data Uses and Limitations**

**(UFP-QAPP Manual Section 2.7)**

**(EPA 2106-G-05 Chapter 3: QAPP Elements For Evaluating Existing Data)**

This worksheet should be used to identify sources of secondary data (i.e., data generated for purposes other than this specific project or data pertinent to this project generated under a separate QAPP) and summarize information relevant to their uses for the current project. This worksheet should be supplemented by text describing specifically how all secondary data will be used. The project team needs to carefully evaluate the quality of secondary data (in terms of precision, bias, representativeness, comparability, and completeness) to ensure they are of the type and quality necessary to support their intended uses. Secondary data can include the following: sampling and testing data collected during previous investigations, historical data, background information, interviews, modeling data, photographs, aerial photographs, topographic maps, and published literature. When evaluating the reliability of secondary data and determining limitations on their uses, consider the source of the data, the time period during which they were collected, data collection methods, potential sources of uncertainty, the type of supporting documentation available, and the comparability of data collection methods to the currently proposed methods. Examples are provided below.

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| **Data type** | **Source** | **Data uses relative to current project** | **Factors affecting the reliability of data and limitations on data use** |
| Meteorological | National Weather Service | Estimations of seasonal fluctuations in storm water runoff. | Published data are available for past 20 years. No known limitations. |
| Topographic | USGS | Surface water drainage pathways. | Topography in area X has been altered by grading activities between 2008 and 2009. |
| Background concentrations of RCRA metals in soil | SI Report, AE Engineering 2006 | Comparison to metals concentrations in surface and subsurface soils in area X. | Substantial excavation has taken place since 1996 in areas from which background samples were collected. Depth of subsurface samples is unknown. Supplemental background samples will be collected. (See WS 17) |
| Past site uses | Plant operating records and personnel interviews | Potential locations of burn pits. | Records for operations prior to 1966 lost in fire. Information prior to 1966 based solely on interviews. |