



Project Summary:

ANSI N13.59 Characterization Standard Development

Location:

Oak Ridge Associated Universities
(Oak Ridge, TN)

Government Agency:

Health Physics Society

Project Timetable:

2001–2008

Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU) provided its expertise in characterization surveys to the development of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) N13.59, also known as “Characterization in Support of Decommissioning Using the Data Quality Objectives Process.”

Released in 2008, ANSI N13.59 provides a technical approach for designing characterization surveys in support of decommissioning. Characterization surveys are performed for a variety of purposes, such as providing information to estimate the extent of building surfaces and soil that exceeds release criteria.

A common objective of characterization is to provide input parameters for final status survey (FSS) design. Specifically, the characterization survey can provide input to a Multi-Agency Radiation Survey and Site Investigation Manual (MARSSIM) FSS by providing estimates of planning parameters, such as the median or mean concentration level in the survey unit and the standard deviation.

This standard serves as a guide to characterization by providing the technical approach for designing a survey for a specific use of the data (e.g., to make decommissioning decisions with known confidence). The decisions and confidence bounds are developed using the Data Quality Objectives (DQO) process, which focuses on the decisions that will make it possible to objectively end the characterization phase once sufficient data have been collected.

ORAU contributed to the standard by:

- Serving as chair in the development of ANSI N13.59 and determining writing assignments for work group members.
- Participating in meetings at various Health Physics Society (HPS) annual and midyear meeting locations across the U.S.
- Collaborating with work group members via electronic means to share progress and milestones, as well as submitting drafts to the
- HPS Standards committee for review and comment.

Partnerships for Innovation



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