



Intercomparison Studies Program

Description of Program and Services

The Intercomparison Studies Program (ISP) located at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) has been in place since May 1991. It is an internationally recognized Quality Control bioassay operation which provides urine, fecal and whole body count intercomparison samples to DOE bioassay laboratories, universities, and private organizations both foreign and domestic.

ISP has all the functionality of a routine bioassay laboratory. This includes having the capability to perform all the separations and analyses that would be carried out in a routine radiobioassay operation, along with all the necessary policies, procedures, and document controls that go along with these techniques.

Samples are sent out to customers at regular intervals (usually monthly or quarterly). These samples are analyzed, and the data is returned to be published in a report. This report is quarterly for urine and fecal samples and documents relative biases, individual laboratory results, and comparison of performance among facilities. A similar whole body count report is published annually.

ISP also takes part in a traceability testing program through participation in the National Institute of Standards and Technology Radiochemistry Intercomparison Program (NRIP). Through such participation, ISP has been shown to have the highest standards relating to measurement uncertainty.



Janice Rankin prepares a sample for a customer.

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