SOIL GAS SAMPLING

SOP#: 2042
DATE: 06/01/96
REV. #: 0.0

1.0 SCOPE AND APPLICATION

Soil gas monitoring provides a quick means of waste site evaluation. Using this method, underground contamination can be identified, and the source, extent, and movement of the pollutants can be traced.

This standard operating procedure (SOP) outlines the methods used by U.S. EPA/ERT in installing soil gas wells; measuring organic vapor levels in the soil gas using a Photoionization Detector (PID), Flame Ionization Detector (FID) and/or other air monitoring devices; and sampling the soil gas using Tedlar bags, Tenax sorbent tubes, and/or Summa canisters.

These are standard (i.e., typically applicable) operating procedures which may be varied or changed as required, dependent on site conditions, equipment limitations or limitations imposed by the procedure. In all instances, the ultimate procedures employed should be documented and associated with the final report.

Mention of trade names or commercial products does not constitute U.S. EPA endorsement or recommendation for use.

2.0 METHOD SUMMARY

A 3/8" diameter hole is driven into the ground to a depth of four to five feet using a commercially available slam bar. Soil gas can also be sampled at other depths by the use of a longer bar or bar attachments. A 1/4" O.D. stainless steel probe is inserted into the hole. The hole is then sealed around the top of the probe using modeling clay. The gas contained in the interstitial spaces of the soil is sampled by pulling the sample through the probe using an air sampling pump. The sample may be stored in Tedlar bags, drawn through sorbent cartridges, or analyzed directly using a direct reading instrument. The air sampling pump is not used for Summa canister sampling of soil gas. Sampling is achieved by soil gas equilibration with the evacuated Summa canister.

Other field air monitoring devices, such as the combustible gas indicator (MSA CGI/02 Meter, Model 260) and the Organic Vapor Analyzer (Foxboro OVA, Model 128), can also be used dependent on specific site conditions. Measurement of soil temperature using a temperature probe may also be desirable. Bagged samples are usually analyzed in a field laboratory using a portable Photovac GC.

Power driven sampling probes may be utilized when soil conditions make sampling by hand unfeasible (i.e., frozen ground, very dense clays, pavement, etc.). Commercially available soil gas sampling probes (hollow, 1/2 = O.D. steel probes) can be driven to the desired depth using a power hammer (e.g., Bosch Demolition Hammer or Geoprobe^{TM}). Samples can be drawn through the probe itself, or through Teflon tubing inserted through the probe and attached to the probe point. Samples are collected and analyzed as described above.

3.0 SAMPLE PRESERVATION, CONTAINERS, HANDLING, AND STORAGE

3.1 Tedlar Bags

Soil gas samples are generally contained in 1.0-L Tedlar bags. Bagged samples are best stored in dark plastic bags placed in coolers to protect the bags from any damage that may occur in the field or in transit. In addition, coolers insure the integrity of the samples by keeping them at a cool temperature and out of direct sunlight. Samples should be analyzed as soon as possible, preferably within 24 - 48 hours.

3.2 Tenax Tubes

Bagged samples can also be drawn onto Tenax or

other sorbent tubes to undergo lab GC/MS analysis. If Tenax tubes are to be utilized, special care must be taken to avoid contamination. Handling of the tubes should be kept to a minimum and only while wearing nylon or other lint-free gloves. After sampling, each tube should be stored in a clean, sealed culture tube; the ends packed with clean glass wool to protect the sorbent tube from breakage. The culture tubes should be kept cool and wrapped in aluminum foil to prevent any photodegradation of samples (see Section 7.4.).

3.3 Summa Canisters

The Summa canisters used for soil gas sampling have a 6 liter sample capacity and are certified clean by GC/MS analysis before being utilized in the field. After sampling is completed, they are stored and shipped in travel cases.

4.0 INTERFERENCES AND POTENTIAL PROBLEMS

4.1 PID Measurements

A number of factors can affect the response of a PID (such as the HNu PI 101). High humidity can cause lamp fogging and decreased sensitivity. This can be significant when soil moisture levels are high, or when a soil gas well is actually in groundwater. High concentrations of methane can cause a downscale deflection of the meter. High and low temperature, electrical fields, FM radio transmission, and naturally occurring compounds, such as terpenes in wooded areas, will also affect instrument response.

Other field screening instruments can be affected by interferences. Consult the manufacturers manuals.

4.2 FID Measurements

A number of factors can affect the response of an FID (such as the OVA model 128). High humidity can cause the FID to flame out or not ignite at all. This can be significant when soil moisture levels are high, or when a soil gas well is actually in groundwater. The FID can only read organic based compounds (they must contain carbon in the molecular structure). The FID also responds poorly to hydrocarbons and halogenated hydrocarbons (such as gasoline, propane fuel). High and low temperature, electrical fields and FM radio transmission will also affect instrument response.

4.3 Factors Affecting Organic Concentrations in Soil Gas

Concentrations in soil gas are affected by dissolution, adsorption, and partitioning. Partitioning refers to the ratio of component found in a saturated vapor above an aqueous solution to the amount in the solution; this can, in theory, be calculated using the Henry's Law constants. Contaminants can also be adsorbed onto inorganic soil components or "dissolved" in organic components. These factors can result in a lowering of the partitioning coefficient.

Soil "tightness" or amount of void space in the soil matrix, will affect the rate of recharging of gas into the soil gas well.

Existence of a high, or perched, water table, or of an impermeable underlying layer (such as a clay lens or layer of buried slag) may interfere with sampling of the soil gas. Knowledge of site geology is useful in such situations, and can prevent inaccurate sampling.

4.4 Soil Probe Clogging

A common problem with this sampling method is soil probe clogging. A clogged probe can be identified by using an in-line vacuum gauge or by listening for the sound of the pump laboring. This problem can usually be eliminated by using a wire cable to clear probe (see Section 7.1.3.).

4.5 Underground Utilities

Prior to selecting sample locations, an underground utility search is recommended. The local utility companies can be contacted and requested to mark the locations of their underground lines. Sampling plans can then be drawn up accordingly. Each sample location should also be screened with a metal detector or magnetometer to verify that no underground pipes or drums exist.

5.0 EQUIPMENT/APPARATUS

5.1 Slam Bar Method

- Slam Bar (1 per sampling team).
- Soil gas probes, stainless steel tubing, 1/4" O.D., 5 ft length.
- Flexible wire or cable used for clearing the

tubing during insertion into the well.

- "Quick Connect" fittings to connect sampling probe tubing, monitoring instruments, and Gilian pumps to appropriate fittings on vacuum box.
- Modeling clay.
- Vacuum box for drawing a vacuum around Tedlar bag for sample collection (1 per sampling team).
- Gilian pump Model HFS113A adjusted to approximately 3.0 L/min (1 to 2 per sample team).
- 1/4" Teflon tubing, 2 ft to 3 ft lengths, for replacement of contaminated sample line.
- 1/4" Tygon tubing, to connect Teflon tubing to probes and quick connect fittings.
- Tedlar bags, 1.0 L, at least 1 bag per sample point.
- Soil Gas Sampling labels, field data sheets, logbook, etc.
- PID/FID, or other field air monitoring devices, (1 per sampling team).
- Ice chest, for carrying equipment and for protection of samples (2 per sampling team).
- Metal detector or magnetometer, for detecting underground utilities/pipes/drums (1 per sampling team).
- Photovac GC, for field-lab analysis of bagged samples.
- Summa canisters (plus their shipping cases) for sample, storage and transportation.
- Large dark plastic garbage bags

5.2 Power Hammer Method

- Bosch demolition hammer.
- 1/2" O.D. steel probes, extensions, and points.
- Dedicated aluminum sampling points.
- Teflon tubing, 1/4".
- "Quick Connect" fittings to connect sampling probe tubing, monitoring instruments, and Gilian pumps to appropriate fittings on vacuum box.
- Modeling clay.
- Vacuum box for drawing a vacuum around Tedlar bag for sample collection (1 per sampling team).
- Gilian pump Model HFS113A adjusted to approximately 3.0 L/min (1 to 2 per sample team).
- 1/4" Teflon tubing, 2 ft to 3 ft lengths, for replacement of contaminated sample line.
- 1/4" Tygon tubing, to connect Teflon tubing to probes and quick connect fittings.
- Tedlar bags, 1.0 L, at least 1 bag per sample point.
- Soil Gas Sampling labels, field data sheets, logbook, etc.
- HNu Model P1101, or other field air monitoring devices, (1 per sampling team).
- Ice chest, for carrying equipment and for protection of samples (2 per sampling team).
- Metal detector or magnetometer, for detecting underground utilities/pipes/drums (1 per sampling team).
- Photovac GC, for field-lab analysis of bagged samples.
- Summa canisters (plus their shipping cases) for sample, storage and transportation.
- Generator w/extension cords.
- High lift jack assembly for removing probes.

5.3 Geoprobe™ Method

The Geoprobe is a hydraulically-operated sampling device mounted in a customized four-wheel drive vehicle. The sampling device can be deployed from the truck and positioned over a sample location. The base of the sampling device is positioned on the ground. The weight of the vehicle is hydraulically raised on the base. As the weight of the vehicle is transferred to the probe, the probe is pushed into the ground. A built-in hammer mechanism allows the probe to be driven past some dense stratigraphic horizons. When the probe reaches the sample depth, up to 50 feet under favorable geologic situations, samples can be collected.

Soil gas can be collected from specific depths in two general ways. One method involves withdrawing a sample directly from the probe rods, after evacuating a sufficient volume of air from the probe rods. The other method involves collecting a sample through tubing attached by an adaptor to the bottom probe rod section. Correctly used, this method provides more reliable results. Manufacturer's instructions and the SOP for the Model 5400 Geoprobe™ Operation should be followed when using this method.

6.0 REAGENTS

- PID/FID or calibration gases for field air monitoring devices (such as methane and

isobutylene).

- Deionized organic-free water, for decontamination.
- Methanol, HPLC grade, for decontamination.
- Ultra-zero grade compressed air, for field blanks.
- Standard gas preparations for Photovac GC calibration and Tedlar bag spikes.
- Propane Torch (for decontamination of steel probes)

7.0 PROCEDURES

7.1 Soil Gas Well Installation

1. Initially a hole slightly deeper than the desired depth is made. For sampling up to 5 feet, a 5-ft single piston slam bar is used. For deeper depths, a piston slam bar with threaded 4-foot-long extensions can be used. Other techniques can be used, so long as holes are of narrow diameter and no contamination is introduced.

2. After the hole is made, the slam bar is carefully withdrawn to prevent collapse of the walls of the hole. The soil gas probe is then inserted.

3. It is necessary to prevent plugging of the probe, especially for deeper holes. A metal wire or cable, slightly longer than the probe, is placed in the probe prior to inserting into the hole. The probe is inserted to full depth, then pulled up three to six inches, then cleared by moving the cable up and down. The cable is removed before sampling.

4. The top of the sample hole is sealed at the surface against ambient air infiltration by using modeling clay molded around the probe at the surface of the hole.

5. If conditions preclude hand installation of the soil gas wells, the power driven system may be employed. The generator powered demolition hammer is used to drive the probe to the desired depth (up to 12 Ft may be attained with extensions). The probe is pulled up 1-3 inches if the retractable point is used. No clay is needed to seal the hole. After sampling, the probe is retrieved using the high lift jack assembly.

6. If semi-permanent soil gas wells are required, the dedicated aluminum probe points are used. These points are inserted into the bottom of the power driven probe and attached to the Teflon tubing. The probe is inserted as in step 5. When the probe is removed, the point and Teflon tube remain in the hole, which may be sealed by backfilling with clean sand, soil, or bentonite.

7.2 Screening with Field Instruments

1. The well volume must be evacuated prior to sampling. Connect the Gilian pump, adjusted to 3.0 L/min, to the sample probe using a section of Teflon tubing as a connector. The pump is turned on, and a vacuum is pulled through the probe for approximately 15 seconds. Longer time is required for sample wells of greater depths.

2. After evacuation, the monitoring instrument(s) (i.e. HNu or OVA) is connected to the probe using a Teflon connector. When the reading is stable, or peaks, the reading is recorded on soil gas data sheets.

3. Of course, readings may be above or below the range set on the field instruments. The range may be reset, or the response recorded as a greater than or less than figure. Recharge rate of the well with soil gas must be considered when resampling at a different range setting.

7.3 Tedlar Bag Sampling

1. Follow step 7.2.1 to evacuate well volume. If air monitoring instrument screening was performed prior to sample taking, evacuation is not necessary.

2. Use the vacuum box and sampling train (Figure 1) to take the sample. The sampling train is designed to minimize the introduction of contaminants and losses due to adsorption. All wetted parts are either Teflon or stainless steel. The vacuum is drawn indirectly to avoid contamination from sample pumps.

3. The Tedlar bag is placed inside the vacuum box, and attached to the sampling port. The sample probe is attached to the sampling port via Teflon tubing and a "Quick Connect" fitting.

4. A vacuum is drawn around the outside of the bag, using a Gilian pump connected to the vacuum box evacuation port, via Tygon tubing and a "Quick Connect" fitting. The vacuum causes the bag to inflate, drawing the sample.

5. Break the vacuum by removing the Tygon line from the pump. Remove the bagged sample from the box and close valve. Record data on data sheets or in logbooks. Record the date, time, sample location ID, and the PID/FID instrument reading(s) on sample bag label.

CAUTION: Labels should not be pasted directly onto the bags, nor should bags be labeled directly using a marker or pen. Inks and adhesive may diffuse through the bag material, contaminating the sample. Place labels on the edge of the bags, or tie the labels to the metal eyelets provided on the bags. Markers with inks containing volatile organics (i.e., permanent ink markers) should not be used.

Chain of Custody Sheets must accompany all samples submitted to the field laboratory for analysis.

7.4 Tenax Tube Sampling

Samples collected in Tedlar bags may be adsorbed onto Tenax tubes for further analysis by GC/MS.

7.4.1 Additional Apparatus

A. Syringe with a luer-lock tip capable of drawing a soil gas or air sample from a Tedlar bag onto a Tenax/CMS sorbent tube. The syringe capacity is dependent upon the volume of sample begin drawn onto the sorbent tube.

B. Adapters for fitting the sorbent tube between the Tedlar bag and the sampling syringe. The adapter attaching the Tedlar bag to the sorbent tube consists of a reducing union (1/4" to 1/16" O.D. -- Swagelok cat. # SS-400-6-ILV or equivalent) with a length of 1/4" O.D. Teflon tubing replacing the nut on the 1/6" (Tedlar bag) side. A 1/4" I.D. silicone O-ring replaces the ferrules in the nut on the 1/4" (sorbent tube) side of the union.

The adapter attaching the sampling syringe to the sorbent tube consists of a reducing union (1/4" to 1/16" O.D. -- Swagelok Cat. # SS-400-6-ILV or equivalent) with a 1/4" I.D. silicone O-ring replacing the ferrules in the nut on the 1/4" (sorbent tube) side and the needle of a luer-lock syringe needle inserted into the 1/16" side. (Held in place with a 1/16" ferrule.) The luer-lock end of the needle can be attached to the sampling syringe. It is useful to have a luer-lock on/off valve situated between the syringe and the needle.

C. Two-stage glass sampling cartridge (1/4" O.D. x 1/8" I.D. x 5 1/8") contained in a flame-sealed tube (Manufacturer: Supelco Custom Tenax/Spherocarb Tubes) containing two sorbent sections retained by glass wool:

Front section: 150 mg of Tenax-GC
Back section: 150 mg of CMS (Carbonized Molecular Sieve)

These tubes are prepared and cleaned in accordance with EPA Method EMSL/RTP-SOP-EMD-013 by the vendor. The vendor sends ten tubes per lot made to the REAC GC/MS Laboratory and they are tested for cleanliness, precision, and reproductability.

D. Teflon-capped culture tubes or stainless steel tube containers for sorbent tube storage and shipping. These containers should be conditioned by baking at 120 degrees C for at least two hours. The culture tubes should contain a glass wool plug to prevent sorbent tube breakage during transport. Reconditioning of the containers should occur between uses or after extended periods of disuse (i.e., two weeks or more).

E. Nylon gloves or lint-free cloth. (Hewlett Packard Part # 8650-0030 or equivalent.)

7.4.2 Sample Collection

Handle sorbent tubes with care, using nylon gloves (or other lint-free material) to avoid contamination.

Immediately before sampling, break one end of the sealed tube and remove the Tenax cartridge.

Connect the valve on the Tedlar bag to the sorbent tube adapter. Connect the sorbent tube to the sorbent tube adapter with the Tenax (white granular) side of the tube facing the Tedlar bag. Connect the sampling syringe assembly to the CMS (black) side of the sorbent tube. Fittings on the adapters should be finer-tight. Open the valve on the Tedlar bag. Open the on/off valve of the sampling syringe. Depending on work plan stipulations, at least 10% of the soil gas samples analyzed by this GC method must be submitted for confirmational GC/MS analysis (according to modified methods TO-1 [Tenax absorbent] and TO-2 [Carbon Molecular Sieve (CMS) absorbent]). Each soil gas sample must be absorbed on replicate Tenax/CMS tubes. The volume absorbed on a Tenax/CMS tube is dependent on the total concentration of the compounds measured by the photovac/GC or other applicable GC:

Total Concentration (ppm)	Sample Volume (mL)
>10	Use Serial Dilution
10	10 - 50
5	20-100
1	100-250

After sampling, remove the tube from the sampling train with gloves or a clean cloth. DO NOT LABEL OR WRITE ON THE TENAX/CMS TUBE.

Place the sorbent tube in a conditioned stainless steel tube holder or culture tube. Culture tube caps should be sealed with Teflon tape.

7.4.3 Sample Labeling

Each sample tube container (not tube) must be labeled with the site name, sample station number, date sampled, and volume sampled.

Chain of custody sheets must accompany all samples to the laboratory.

7.4.4 Quality Assurance (QA)

Before field use, a QA check should be performed on each batch of sorbent tubes by analyzing a tube by thermal desorption/cryogenic trapping GC/MS.

At least one blank sample must be submitted with each set of samples collected at a site. This trip blank must be treated the same as the sample tubes except no sample will be drawn through the tube.

Sample tubes should be stored out of UV light (i.e., sunlight) and kept on ice until analysis. Samples should be taken in duplicate, when possible.

7.5 Summa Canister Sampling

1. Follow step 7.2.1 to evacuate well volume. If PID/FID readings were taken prior to taking a sample, evacuation is not necessary.

2. Attach a certified clean, evacuated 6-liter Summa canister via the 1/4" Teflon tubing.

3. Open valve on Summa canister. The soil gas sample is drawn into the canister by pressure equilibration. The approximate sampling time for a 6 liter canister is 20 minutes.

4. Site name, sample location, number, and date must be recorded on a chain of custody form and on a blank tag attached to the canister.

8.0 CALCULATIONS

8.1 Field Screening Instruments

Instrument readings are usually read directly from the meter. In some cases, the background level at the soil gas station may be subtracted:

Final Reading = Sample Reading - Background

8.2 Photovac GC Analysis

Calculations used to determine concentrations of individual components by Photovac GC analysis are beyond the scope of this SOP and are covered in ERT SOP #2109, *Photovac GC Analysis for Soil Water and Air/Soil Gas.*

9.0 CALIBRATION

9.1 Field Instruments

It is recommended that the manufacturers' manuals be consulted for correct use and calibration of all instrumentation.

9.2 Gilian Model HFS113A Air Sampling Pumps

Flow should be set at approximately 3.0 L/min; accurate flow adjustment is not necessary. Pumps should be calibrated prior to bringing into the field.

10.0 QUALITY ASSURANCE/ QUALITY CONTROL

10.1 Sample Probe Contamination

Sample probe contamination is checked between each sample by drawing ambient air through the probe via a Gilian pump and checking the response of the FID/PID. If readings are higher than background, replacement or decontamination is necessary.

Sample probes may be decontaminated simply by drawing ambient air through the probe until the HNu reading is at background. More persistent contamination can be washed out using methanol and water, then air drying. For persistent volatile contamination, use of a portable propane torch may be needed. Using a pair of pliers to hold the probe, run the torch up and down the length of the sample probe for approximately 1-2 minutes. Let the probe cool before handling. When using this method, make sure to wear gloves to prevent burns. Having more than one probe per sample team will reduce lag times between sample stations while probes are decontaminated.

10.2 Sample Train Contamination

The Teflon line forming the sample train from the probe to the Tedlar bag should be changed on a daily basis. If visible contamination (soil or water) is drawn into the sampling train, it should be changed immediately. When sampling in highly contaminated areas, the sampling train should be purged with ambient air, via a Gilian pump, for approximately 30 seconds between each sample. After purging, the sampling train can be checked using an FID or PID, or other field monitoring device, to establish the cleanliness of the Teflon line.

10.3 FID/PID Calibration

The FID and PIDs should be calibrated at least once a day using the appropriate calibration gases.

10.4 Field Blanks

Each cooler containing samples should also contain one Tedlar bag of ultra-zero grade air, acting as a field blank. The field blank should accompany the samples in the field (while being collected) and when they are delivered for analysis. A fresh blank must be provided to be placed in the empty cooler pending additional sample collection. One new field blank per cooler of samples is required. A chain of custody sheet must accompany each cooler of samples and should include the blank that is dedicated to that group of samples.

10.5 Trip Standards

Each cooler containing samples should contain a Tedlar bag of standard gas to calibrate the analytical instruments (Photovac GC, etc.). This trip standard will be used to determine any changes in concentrations of the target compounds during the course of the sampling day (e.g., migration through the sample bag, degradation, or adsorption). A fresh trip standard must be provided and placed in each cooler pending additional sample collection. A chain of custody sheet should accompany each cooler of samples and should include the trip standard that is dedicated to that group of samples.

10.6 Tedlar Bag Check

Prior to use, one bag should be removed from each lot (case of 100) of Tedlar bags to be used for sampling and checked for possible contamination as follows: the test bag should be filled with ultra-zero grade air; a sample should be drawn from the bag and analyzed via Photovac GC or whatever method is to be used for sample analysis. This procedure will ensure sample container cleanliness prior to the start of the sampling effort.

10.7 Summa Canister Check

From each lot of four cleaned Summa canisters, one is to be removed for a GC/MS certification check. If the canister passes certification, then it is re-evacuated and all four canisters from that lot are available for sampling.

If the chosen canister is contaminated, then the entire lot of four Summas must be recleaned, and a single canister is re-analyzed by GC/MS for certification.

10.8 Options

10.8.1 Duplicate Samples

A minimum of 5% of all samples should be collected in duplicate (i.e., if a total of 100 samples are to be collected, five samples should be duplicated.) In choosing which samples to duplicate, the following criteria applies: if, after filling the first Tedlar bag, and, evacuating the well for 15 seconds, the second HN (or other field monitoring device being used) reading matches or is close to (within 50%) the first reading, a duplicate sample may be taken.

10.8.2 Spikes

A Tedlar bag spike and Tenax tube spike may be desirable in situations where high concentrations of contaminants other than the target compounds are found to exist (landfills, etc.). The additional level of QA/QC attained by this practice can be useful in determining the effects of interferences caused by these non-target compounds. Summa canisters containing samples are not spiked.

11.0 DATA VALIDATION

11.1 Blanks (Field and Tedlar Bag Check)

For each target compound, the level of concentration found in the sample must be greater than three times the level (for that compound) found in the field blank which accompanied that sample to be considered valid. The same criteria apply to target compounds detected in the Tedlar bag pre-sampling contamination check.

12.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

Due to the remote nature of sampling soil gas, special considerations can be taken with regard to health and safety. Because the sample is being drawn from underground, and no contamination is introduced into the breathing zone, soil gas sampling usually occurs in Level D. Ambient air is constantly monitored using the HNu PI101 to obtain background readings during the sampling procedure. As long as the levels in ambient air do not rise above background, no upgrade of the level of protection is needed.

When conducting soil gas sampling, leather gloves should be worn, and proper slam bar techniques should be implemented (bend knees). Also, an underground utility search should be performed prior to sampling. (See Section 4.5).

13.0 REFERENCES

Gilian Instrument Corp., Instruction Manual for Hi Flow Sampler: HFS113, HFS 113 T, HFS 113U, HFS 113 UT, 1983.

HNu Systems, Inc., Instruction Manual for Model PI 101 Photoionization Analyzer, 1975.

N.J.D.E.P., Field Sampling Procedures Manual, Hazardous Waste Programs, February, 1988.

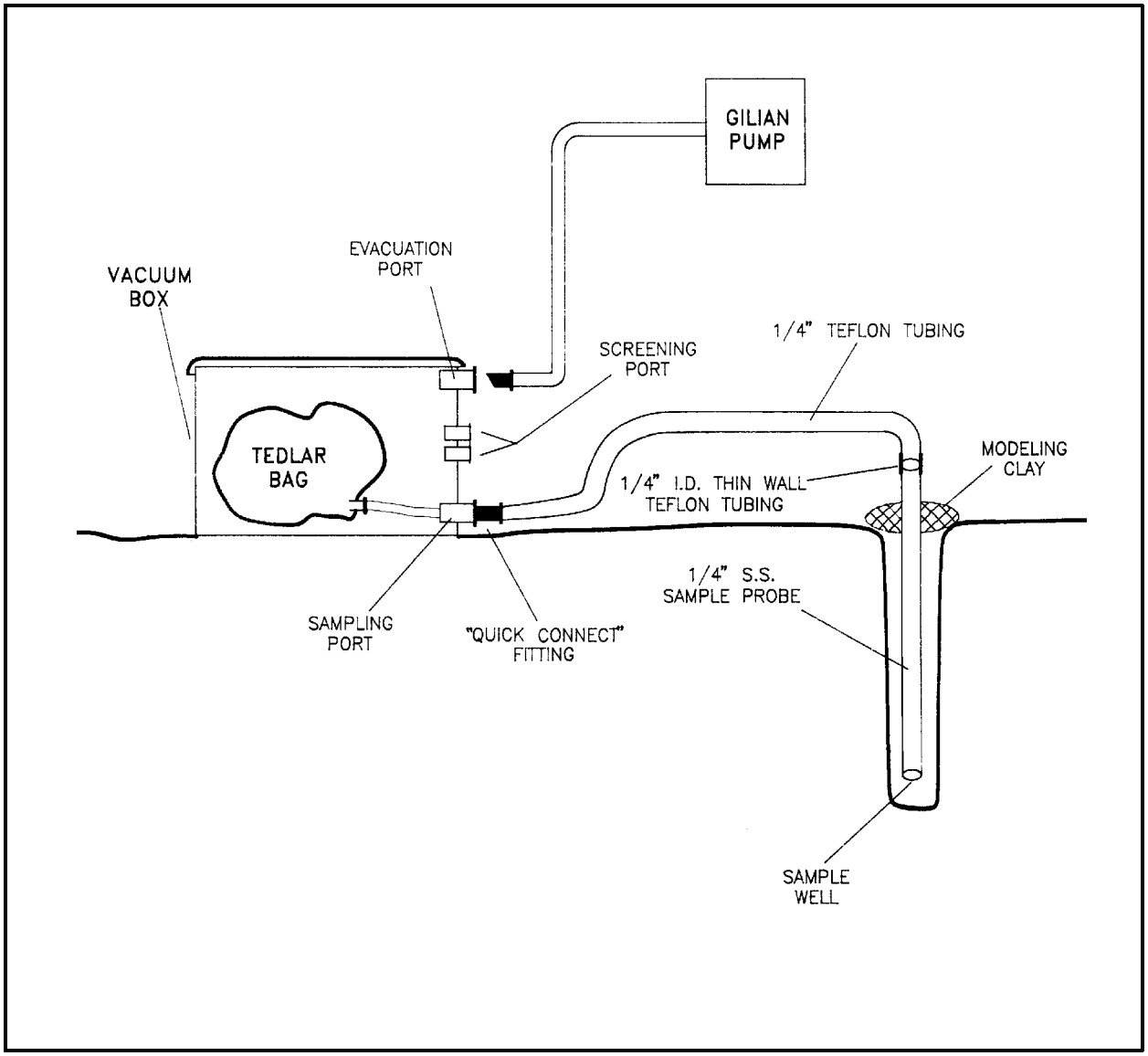
Roy F. Weston, Inc., Weston Instrumentation Manual, Volume I, 1987.

U.S.E.P.A., Characterization of Hazardous Waste Sites - A Methods Manual: Volume II, Available Sampling Methods, 2nd Edition, EPA-600/4-84-076, December, 1984.

APPENDIX A

Figure

FIGURE 1. Sampling Train Schematic



APPENDIX B

HNu Field Protocol

Field Procedure

The following sections detail the procedures that are to be followed when using the HNu in the field.

Startup Procedure

a. Before attaching the probe, check the function switch on the control panel to ensure that it is in the off position. Attach the probe by plugging it into the interface on the top of the readout module. Use care in aligning the prongs in the probe cord with the plug in; don't force.

b. Turn the function switch to the battery check position. The needle on the meter should read within or above the green battery are on the scale. If not, recharge the battery. If the red indicator light comes on, the battery needs recharging.

c. Turn the function switch to any range setting. Look into the end of the probe for no more than two to three seconds to see if the lamp is on. If it is on, it will give a purple glow. Do not stare into the probe any longer than three seconds. Long term exposure to UV light can damage eyes. Also, listen for the hum of the fan motor.

d. To ZERO the instrument, turn the function switch to the standby position and rotate the zero adjustment until the meter reads zero. A calibration gas is not needed since this is an electronic zero adjustment. If the span adjustment setting is changed after the zero is set, the zero should be rechecked and adjusted, if necessary. Wait 15 to 20 seconds to ensure that the zero reading is stable. If necessary, readjust the zero.

Operational Check

a. Follow the startup procedure.

b. With the instrument set on the 0-20 range, hold a solvent-based major market near the probe tip. If the meter deflects upscale, the instrument is working.

Field Calibration Procedure

a. Follow the startup procedure and the operational check.

b. Set the function switch to the range setting for the concentration of the calibration gas.

c. Attach a regulator (HNu 101-351) to a disposable cylinder of isobutylene gas (HNu 101-351). Connect the regulator to the probe of the HNu with a piece of clean Tygon tubing. Turn on the value on the regulator.

d. After fifteen seconds, adjust the span dial until the meter reading equals the concentration of the calibration gas used. Be careful to unlock the span dial before adjusting it. If the span has to be set below 3.0, calibration internally or return to equipment maintenance for repair.

e. Record in the field logbook: the instrument ID no. (EPA decal or serial number if the instrument is a rental); the initial and final span settings; the date and time; concentration and type of calibration has used; and the name of the person who calibrated the instrument.

Operation

a. Follow the startup procedure, operational check, and calibration check.

b. Set the function switch to the appropriate range. If the concentration of gases or vapors is unknown, set the function switch to the 0-20 ppm range. Adjust it if necessary.

c. While taking care not to permit the HNu to be exposed to excessive moisture, dirt, or contamination, monitor the work activity as specified in the Site Health and Safety Plan.

d. When the activity is completed or at the end of the day, carefully clean the outside of the HNu with a damp disposable towel to remove any visible dirt. Return the HNu to a secure area and place on charge.

e. With the exception of the probe's inlet and exhaust, the HNu can be wrapped in clear plastic to prevent it form becoming contaminated and to prevent water from getting inside in the event of precipitation.