

Decommissioning the Unexpected

When good decommissionings go bad.....

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PUBLIC HEALTH
ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND
HEALTHIER WASHINGTON

Washington State Decommissioning Process

- Licensee asks to Decommission
- Licensee fills out paperwork:
 - Quantity and type of material they had at the site
 - When they last had the material
 - Where the material went
 - If they sent any material up a stack or down a drain
- Licensee performs a survey or has a consultant come in and survey

Washington State Decommissioning Process

- DOH does a “Confirmation” Survey
- Wipes (if applicable) are sent to State Public Health Laboratory

Vanishing Acts



Now what?

Playing Detective

- State Resources - Business Licensing and Secretary of State
- Corporate Listing Websites - Manta.com
- Landlord or Real Estate Agents
- Broad Internet Search with Company Name
- Personal Online Profiles

Surprise!!!!















Why We Check Inventories....



Stock Vial



Pigs Behind Fume Hood

- Pigs found behind a fume hood during a building remodel.
- Licensee had already followed decommissioning process.
- Changed the questions we ask.

Cell Harvesters

“The Messy Children of Lab Equipment”



What are Cell Harvesters Used For?

- Cell Proliferation Assays using Tritiated Thymidine Uptake
- Receptor Binding Assays
- Adherent Cell Assays
- Cytotoxicity Assays
- Nucleic Acid Degradation

How Do Cell Harvesters Work?

- Well Plates are loaded with Radiolabeled Solution and Cells



How Do Cell Harvesters Work?



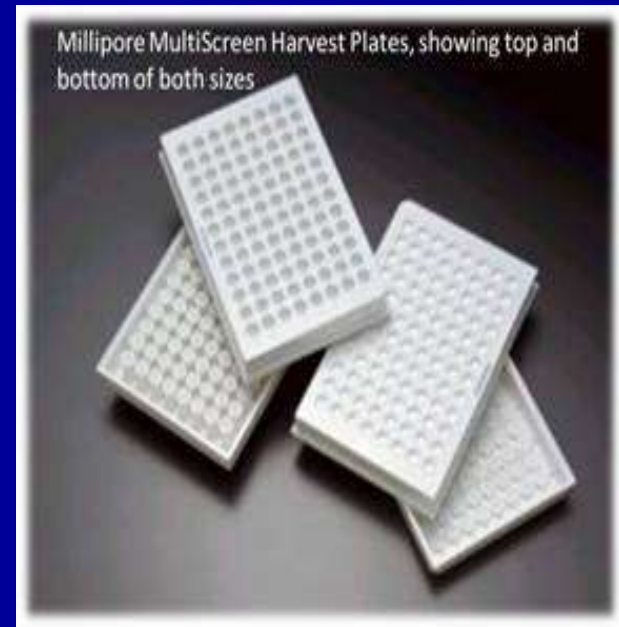
- A big metal plate with little spigots runs water through the wells of the well plate flushing out cellular material containing labeled DNA

How Do Cell Harvesters Work?

This DNA ends up on filtermatts in the plate, while unbound radioactivity is ran into the waste container under vacuum



The Plates or Matts Are Counted



Where the “Mess” Goes

- Counter Backsplashes
- Table Legs and Supports
- Under Sink
- Tubing, Trays, Fittings
- Vacuum Pump



Watching the Watchmen: Just how good is that consultant?



CONSULTING

IF YOU'RE NOT A PART OF THE SOLUTION,
THERE'S GOOD MONEY TO BE MADE IN PROLONGING THE PROBLEM.

Checking HP Technique

- Correct instruments for the nuclides?
 - LSC?
- Correct survey/wipe technique?
 - Wipe Media
- Adequate survey locations?
- Correct calibration of instruments?

By Verifying Decommissioning We....

- We Keep Our Licensees Accountable
- We Keep the Public and Future Tenants Safe
- We Maintain Control of the Radioactive Material in Our States



Questions?



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