

**Cost Results from the 1994 Fernald Characterization Field  
Demonstration for Uranium-Contaminated Soils**

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## ACRONYMS

DOE	(United States) Department of Energy
FERMCO	Fernald Environmental Restoration Management Corporation
Fidler	Low-energy Scintillation Detector
ICP-MS	Inductively-Coupled-Plasma Mass Spectrometry
LA-ICP/AES	Laser Ablation-Inductively Coupled Plasma/Atomic Emission Spectrometry
LANL	Los Alamos National Laboratory
LRAD	Long-range Alpha Detector
NaI	Sodium iodide
ORNL	Oak Ridge National Laboratory
PNL	Pacific Northwest Laboratory
SNL	Sandia National Laboratory
TTP	Technical Task Plan
XRF	X-ray Fluorescence

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 BACKGROUND

One of the principal objectives of the United States Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Technology Development is to develop an optimum integrated system of technologies for removing uranium substances from soil. This system of technologies, through demonstration, must be proven in terms of cost reduction, waste minimization, risk reduction, and user applicability. To evaluate the effectiveness of these technologies, a field demonstration was conducted at the Fernald site in the summer of 1994. Fernald was selected as the host site for the demonstration based on environmental problems stemming from past production of uranium metal for defense-related applications.

The Performance Assessment Task Group at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) is responsible for furnishing a systematic evaluation process for the project, providing information to support decision-making for future applications, and establishing the success of each technology. In addition, the Characterization Task Group is responsible for designing and administering a program to address site characterization issues for uranium-contaminated soils. The characterization technologies developed by the Characterization Group are evaluated by the Performance Assessment Group for their adequacy in detecting uranium contamination.

The following six alternative technologies were developed and/or demonstrated by the principal investigators in the Characterization Task Group at the field demonstration: 1) beta scintillation detector by Pacific Northwest Laboratory (PNL), 2) *in situ* gamma detector by PNL, 3) mobile laser ablation-inductively coupled plasma/atomic emission spectrometry (LA-ICP/AES) laboratory by Ames Laboratory, 4) long-range alpha detector (LRAD) by Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), 5) passive radon monitoring by ORNL, and 6) electret ion chamber by ORNL. To compare these new alternative technologies to the current state of technology for site characterization, the following traditional field detectors were tested by a Fernald Environmental Restoration Management Corporation (FERMCO) group experienced in site characterization: 1) a sodium-iodide (NaI) detector, 2) a low-energy scintillation detector (Fidler), and 3) an x-ray fluorescence (XRF) detector. Standard soil core sampling and laboratory analyses were conducted by FERMCO personnel as a baseline condition to verify each characterization technology's ability to accurately characterize uranium contamination in the soil.

## 1.2 OBJECTIVE

The objective of this document is to present the results of each characterization technology's cost effectiveness during the FERMCO field demonstration, as well as describe the methodology used in developing the cost analysis reports. The results from this report will be used in a cost/risk decision model, which will help address such issues as the cost effectiveness of additional sampling, optimal sampling strategies, and uncertainty in predicted contamination at unsampled points. Sandia National Laboratory (SNL) has been tasked to develop and apply the cost/risk decision-making framework under the Technical Task Plan (TTP), "Cost/Risk Performance Assessment of Soil Characterization" (TTP AL231007). In support of this TTP, Performance Assessment Group members developed cost data for use in the cost/risk decision model.

During the field demonstration, FERMCO personnel were responsible for recording the amount of time required for each group to conduct the following activities associated with their respective characterization technologies: 1) equipment assembly and setup, 2) equipment calibration, 3) site characterization, and 4) equipment decontamination and disassembly/loading for transport. A data base, created by Performance Assessment Group members, included the amount of time spent by each group to complete each of the aforementioned four activities during the field demonstration of each technology. The daily characterization sheets provide the following information for each day the technology was in the field: 1) actual recorded times spent for equipment assembly and setup, equipment calibration, site characterization (data manipulation and processing are included in this activity), and equipment decontamination and disassembly, along with the number of personnel required for each activity; 2) the number of samples collected in the calibration beds; and 3) the number of field samples collected on the sampling grid.

Based on the recorded times to conduct the tasks associated with characterizing the site, as well as assumptions made by the cost estimators, total costs associated with demonstrating each technology during the field demonstration were developed. A breakdown of these costs and a description of the assumptions made to develop these costs are presented in this report. The cost estimates in this report are based strictly on the recorded times from the daily characterization sheets completed by FERMCO personnel during the field demonstration. Therefore, all of the field screening technologies can be equally evaluated from a cost perspective.

### **1.3 DESCRIPTION OF FIELD DEMONSTRATION SITE**

The Characterization Task Group developed the sampling plan and schedule for each technology to follow during the field demonstration (Field Demonstration Project Plan 1994). The field demonstration was performed on a subsection of the incinerator area site. Uranium concentrations are believed to range from background to approximately 80 pCi/g. Contamination at this site is primarily a result from emissions created by incineration of uranium-contaminated combustibles. The demonstration was performed on a gridded subsection of the site measuring approximately 126,000 ft<sup>2</sup>. Four calibration beds were created by homogenizing and spiking the beds with uranium-contaminated Fernald soil to yield concentrations of near background (approximately 5 pCi/g), 35, 100, and 200 pCi/g. These calibration beds were used to normalize and adjust the field screening instruments to yield more accurate results. Standards plots were created to standardize the detector precision quantification. These plots were surveyed twice a day by personnel operating each characterization technology. The following sample locations were set up on the site grid system: 1) 42 regular grid sample points (at 60-ft spacings), 2) 29 short scale points (at 30-ft spacings), and 3) 18 fine scale points (at 5-ft spacings). Data from these 89 sample locations were collected by each characterization technology for the field demonstration and sent to Performance Assessment Task Group members at SNL, who are responsible for documenting the performance of each characterization technology in measuring uranium concentrations.

### **1.4 ASSUMPTIONS FOR THE COST ESTIMATES**

Based on previous experience, factors such as travel, transportation, lodging, and miscellaneous costs associated with the operation of each characterization technology are included in the cost estimates for each technology's performance during the field demonstration. These cost estimates are provided



in Sect. 3. Along with the personnel charge rates, the number of personnel required to operate each characterization technology varied for the field demonstration. It is important to account for these factors in the estimates since the cost to cover these activities would be included if an interested party requested a bid to conduct site characterization work using one of the characterization technologies. For example, transportation costs vary depending on the technology because some of the technologies can be transported in a company van or truck and others require special considerations in terms of travel to a site, such as the mobile LA-ICP/AES laboratory, which is set up in a 44-ft, fifth-wheel trailer. Transportation costs for this technology will generally be higher than for the other technologies.

The personnel operating the characterization technologies were from different DOE sites and were required to travel varying distances to participate in the field demonstration. Therefore, to compare the technologies from an equal standpoint, an assumption was made that 2 days were required for each group operating the technology to complete a round trip of 500 miles to the Fernald site. Therefore, travel costs and personnel salaries for the 2 travel days were included in the cost estimates for each characterization technology, as shown in Sect. 3. In addition, costs associated with activities such as data processing, data manipulation, and data review/analysis were included in the estimates. Miscellaneous costs such as maintenance costs, operating supplies, and personnel protective equipment associated with each technology were also included in the cost estimates.

## **2. SOIL CORE SAMPLING AND LABORATORY ANALYSIS**

Soil core samples were collected at both grid points and the standards plots as an accepted baseline for comparing the performance and cost results of the characterization technologies. A FERMC0 group collected the soil samples for the field demonstration. The samples were sent to a laboratory for isotopic analysis. A laboratory procedure entitled Inductively-Coupled-Plasma Mass Spectrometry (ICP-MS) was used to analyze the samples for isotopic results. For the field demonstration, field samples were collected at 85 of the 89 grid sample locations. In addition, duplicate samples were collected at 18 random grid points, resulting in a total of 103 field samples collected for laboratory analysis. Therefore, for the soil sampling and laboratory analysis scenario, 103 field point samples were used to calculate the total labor cost per sample and total cost per sample values.

## **3. TOTAL COST SHEETS FOR FIELD DEMONSTRATION**

The following discussion provides an itemized list of the total costs associated with each technology's performance during the field demonstration based on the assumptions discussed in Subsect. 1.4. Labor costs are based on the time the operators of each technology were in the field. The labor required for data manipulation and processing is also included in the labor costs. The lodging and per diem costs shown on the cost sheets in Table 1 are based on the assumption that two personnel are

Table 1. Cost Sheets for Characterization Technologies

**Sodium Iodide Detector**

Item	Item Description	Unit	Quantity	Cost/Unit	Total Cost
1	Transportation Costs	mile	500.00	\$0.29	\$145
2	Lodging Costs	day	6.00	\$62.00	\$372
3	Per Diem	day	8.00	\$34.00	\$272
4	Personnel Travel	hours	32.00	\$56.00	\$1,792
5	Equipment Assembly and Set-up	man-hr	0.38	\$56.00	\$21
		man-hr	0.38	\$56.00	\$21
6	Equipment Calibration	man-hr	1.21	\$56.00	\$68
		man-hr	1.21	\$56.00	\$68
7	Site Characterization	man-hr	7.42	\$56.00	\$416
		man-hr	7.42	\$56.00	\$416
8	Equipment Decontamination/Disassembly/etc	man-hr	0.17	\$56.00	\$10
		man-hr	0.17	\$56.00	\$10
9	Miscellaneous: (Safety boots, Glasses, etc...)	unit	2.00	\$50.00	\$100
<b>Total Cost</b>					<b>\$3,709</b>

**Fidler Detector**

Item	Item Description	Unit	Quantity	Cost/Unit	Total Cost
1	Transportation Costs	mile	500.00	\$0.29	\$145
2	Lodging Costs	day	10.00	\$62.00	\$620
3	Per Diem	day	12.00	\$34.00	\$408
4	Personnel Travel	hours	32.00	\$56.00	\$1,792
4	Equipment Assembly and Set-up	man-hr	0.25	\$56.00	\$14
		man-hr	0.25	\$56.00	\$14
5	Equipment Calibration	man-hr	1.63	\$56.00	\$91
		man-hr	1.63	\$56.00	\$91
6	Site Characterization	man-hr	13.15	\$56.00	\$736
		man-hr	13.15	\$56.00	\$736
7	Equipment Decontamination/Disassembly/etc	man-hr	0.21	\$56.00	\$11
		man-hr	0.21	\$56.00	\$11
8	Miscellaneous: (Safety Boots, Glasses...)	unit	2.00	\$50.00	\$100
<b>Total Cost</b>					<b>\$4,771</b>

Table 1. (continued)

**Electret Ion Chamber**

Item	Item Description	Unit	Quantity	Cost/Unit	Total Cost
1	Transportation Costs	mile	500.00	\$0.29	\$145
2	Lodging Costs	day	12.00	\$62.00	\$744
3	Per Diem	day	14.00	\$34.00	\$476
4	Personnel Travel	hours	32.00	\$100.00	\$3,200
5	Equipment Assembly and Set-up	man-hr	1.84	\$100.00	\$184
		man-hr	1.84	\$100.00	\$184
6	Equipment Calibration	man-hr	2.13	\$100.00	\$213
		man-hr	2.13	\$100.00	\$213
7	Site Characterization	man-hr	9.33	\$100.00	\$933
		man-hr	9.33	\$100.00	\$933
8	Equipment Decontamination/Disassembly/etc	man-hr	0.64	\$100.00	\$64
		man-hr	0.64	\$100.00	\$64
9	Miscellaneous: Volt Meter Replacement	day	5	\$5.00	\$25
	Review/Analyze data sheets	hours	8	\$100.00	\$800
	Cost to buy and process detectors	day	116	\$10.00	\$1,160
<b>Total Cost</b>					<b>\$9,337</b>

**X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) Detector**

Item	Item Description	Unit	Quantity	Cost/Unit	Total Cost
1	Transportation Costs	mile	500.00	\$0.29	\$145
2	Lodging Costs	day	24.00	\$62.00	\$1,488
3	Per Diem	day	26.00	\$34.00	\$884
4	Personnel Travel	hours	32.00	\$56.00	\$1,792
5	Equipment Assembly and Set-up	man-hr	4.75	\$56.00	\$266
		man-hr	4.75	\$56.00	\$266
6	Equipment Calibration	man-hr	3.99	\$56.00	\$223
		man-hr	3.99	\$56.00	\$223
7	Site Characterization	man-hr	33.02	\$56.00	\$1,849
		man-hr	33.02	\$56.00	\$1,849
8	Equipment Decontamination/Disassembly/etc	man-hr	0.68	\$56.00	\$38
		man-hr	0.68	\$56.00	\$38
9	Miscellaneous: Personnel Protective Equipment	unit	2.00	\$50.00	\$100
	Window Assembly	day	11.00	\$4.00	\$44
	Lithium batteries	day	11.00	\$0.39	\$4
	Cd source	day	11.00	\$19.25	\$212
	Vinyl tape	roll	1.00	\$2.20	\$2
	X-ray Mylar film	roll	1.00	\$40.00	\$40
	31mm double open X-Ray Cell	100 cells	1.00	\$63.00	\$63
	Window Assembly	day	1.00	\$60.92	\$61
<b>Total Cost</b>					<b>\$9,588</b>

Table 1. (continued)

**Passive Radon Monitoring**

Item	Item Description	Unit	Quantity	Cost/Unit	Total Cost
1	Transportation Costs	mile	500.00	\$0.29	\$145
2	Lodging Costs	day	14.00	\$62.00	\$868
3	Per Diem	day	16.00	\$34.00	\$544
4	Personnel Travel	hours	32.00	\$100.00	\$3,200
4	Equipment Assembly and Set-up	man-hr	1.84	\$100.00	\$184
		man-hr	1.84	\$100.00	\$184
5	Equipment Calibration	man-hr	2.67	\$100.00	\$267
		man-hr	2.67	\$100.00	\$267
6	Site Characterization	man-hr	10.17	\$100.00	\$1,017
		man-hr	10.17	\$100.00	\$1,017
7	Equipment Decontamination/Disassembly/etc	man-hr	0.67	\$100.00	\$67
		man-hr	0.67	\$100.00	\$67
8	Miscellaneous: Volt Meter Replacement	day	6	\$5.00	\$30
	Shipment to Lab	sample	131	\$0.04	\$5
	Review/QA Data sheets	hours	9.6	\$100.00	\$960
	Analysis Cost	day	131	\$10.00	\$1,310
<b>Total Cost</b>					<b>\$10,131</b>

**In Situ Gamma Detector (High Set-up)**

Item	Item Description	Unit	Quantity	Cost/Unit	Total Cost
1	Transportation Costs	mile	500	\$0.25	\$125
2	Lodging Costs	day	16	\$62.00	\$992
3	Per Diem	day	18	\$34.00	\$612
4	Personnel Travel	hours	16	\$90.00	\$1,440
		hours	16	\$110.00	\$1,760
5	Equipment Assembly and Set-up	man-hr	5	\$90.00	\$450
		man-hr	5	\$110.00	\$550
6	Equipment Calibration	man-hr	1.58	\$90.00	\$142
		man-hr	1.58	\$110.00	\$174
7	Site Characterization	man-hr	32.09	\$90.00	\$2,888
		man-hr	32.09	\$110.00	\$3,530
8	Equipment Decontamination/Disassembly/etc	man-hr	1.75	\$90.00	\$158
		man-hr	1.75	\$110.00	\$193
9	Miscellaneous: Gloves, face shield, safety glasses	trip	2	\$50.00	\$100
	Generator Fuel and Liquid Nitrogen	day	7	\$10.00	\$70
<b>Total Cost</b>					<b>\$13,183</b>

Table 1. (continued)

***In Situ* Gamma Detector (Low Set-up)**

Item	Item Description	Unit	Quantity	Cost/Unit	Total Cost
1	Transportation Costs	mile	500	\$0.25	\$125
2	Lodging Costs	day	16	\$62.00	\$992
3	Per Diem	day	18	\$34.00	\$612
4	Personnel Travel	day	16	\$90.00	\$1,440
		hours	16	\$110.00	\$1,760
5	Equipment Assembly and Set-up	man-hr	5.25	\$90.00	\$473
		man-hr	5.25	\$110.00	\$578
6	Equipment Calibration	man-hr	1.58	\$90.00	\$142
		man-hr	1.58	\$110.00	\$174
7	Site Characterization	man-hr	34.02	\$90.00	\$3,062
		man-hr	34.02	\$110.00	\$3,742
8	Equipment Decontamination/Disassembly/etc	man-hr	2	\$90.00	\$180
		man-hr	2	\$110.00	\$220
9	Miscellaneous: Gloves, face shield, safety glasses	trip	2	\$50.00	\$100
	Generator Fuel and Liquid Nitrogen	day	7	\$10.00	\$70
<b>Total Cost</b>					<b>\$13,669</b>

**Long-Range Alpha Detector**

Item	Item Description	Unit	Quantity	Cost/Unit	Total Cost
1	Transportation Costs	mile	500.00	\$0.24	\$120
2	Lodging Costs	day	14.00	\$62.00	\$868
3	Per Diem	day	16.00	\$34.00	\$544
4	Personnel Travel	hours	16.00	\$113.00	\$1,808
		hours	16.00	\$150.00	\$2,400
4	Equipment Assembly and Set-up	man-hr	1.57	\$113.00	\$177
		man-hr	1.57	\$150.00	\$236
5	Equipment Calibration	man-hr	2.50	\$113.00	\$283
		man-hr	2.50	\$150.00	\$375
6	Site Characterization	man-hr	24.85	\$113.00	\$2,807
		man-hr	24.85	\$150.00	\$3,727
7	Equipment Decontamination/Disassembly/etc	man-hr	1.22	\$113.00	\$138
		man-hr	1.22	\$150.00	\$183
8	Miscellaneous: Safety Shoes and sunscreen	unit	2.00	\$110.00	\$220
	Cost to Ship LRAD	trip	1.00	\$1,420.00	\$1,420
	Diesel fuel and AC power to charge batteries	day	6.00	\$10.00	\$60
<b>Total Cost</b>					<b>\$15,366</b>

Table 1. (continued)

**Beta Scintillation Detector**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Item Description</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Cost/Unit</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
1	Transportation Costs	mile	500.00	\$0.25	\$125
2	Lodging Costs	day	14.00	\$62.00	\$868
3	Per Diem	day	16.00	\$34.00	\$544
4	Personnel Travel	hours	16.00	\$90.00	\$1,440
		hours	16.00	\$100.00	\$1,600
4	Equipment Assembly and Set-up	man-hr	4.22	\$90.00	\$380
		man-hr	4.22	\$100.00	\$422
5	Equipment Calibration	man-hr	6.63	\$90.00	\$597
		man-hr	6.63	\$100.00	\$663
6	Site Characterization	man-hr	42.56	\$90.00	\$3,830
		man-hr	42.56	\$100.00	\$4,256
7	Equipment Decontamination/Disassembly/etc	man-hr	1.48	\$90.00	\$133
		man-hr	1.48	\$100.00	\$148
8	Miscellaneous: (Generator Fuel)	day	6.00	\$10.00	\$60
	Van Rental	day	8.00	\$40.75	\$326
<b>Total Cost</b>					<b>\$15,391</b>

Table 1. (continued)

**Soil Sampling and Laboratory Analysis**

Item	Item Description	Unit	Quantity	Cost/Unit	Total Cost
1	Transportation Costs	mile	500.00	\$0.29	\$145
2	Lodging Costs	day	18.00	\$62.00	\$1,116
3	Per Diem	day	21.00	\$34.00	\$714
4	Personnel Travel	hours	48.00	\$56.00	\$2,688
5	Equipment Assembly and Set-up	man-hr	0.00	\$56.00	\$0
		man-hr	0.00	\$56.00	\$0
6	Equipment Calibration	man-hr	0.00	\$56.00	\$0
		man-hr	0.00	\$56.00	\$0
7	Site Characterization	man-hr	101.00	\$56.00	\$5,656
		man-hr	0.00	\$56.00	\$0
8	Equipment Decontamination/Disassembly/etc	man-hr	0.00	\$56.00	\$0
		man-hr	0.00	\$56.00	\$0
9	Laboratory Analysis: ICP-Mass Spectrometry: isotopic analysis	sample	103.00	\$200.00	\$20,600
10	Personnel Monitoring, Health & Safety Issues	man-hr	56.00	\$56.00	\$3,136
11	Miscellaneous: (boots, glasses, coolers, ice, etc..)	unit	1.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000
<b>Total Cost</b>					<b>\$35,055</b>

**Mobile LA-ICP-AES Laboratory**

Item	Item Description	Unit	Quantity	Cost/Unit	Total Cost
1	Transportation Costs	mile	500.00	\$1.05	\$525
2	Lodging Costs	day	40.00	\$62.00	\$2,480
3	Per Diem	day	44.00	\$34.00	\$1,496
4	Personnel Travel	hours	64.00	\$50.00	\$3,200
5	Equipment Assembly and Set-up	man-hr	81.20	\$50.00	\$4,060
6	Equipment Calibration	man-hr	1.00	\$50.00	\$50
7	Site Characterization	man-hr	187.08	\$50.00	\$9,354
8	Equipment Decontamination/Disassembly/etc	man-hr	14.00	\$50.00	\$700
9	Miscellaneous: Generator Fuel	day	9.00	\$25.00	\$225
	Maintenance Cost	day	9.00	\$50.00	\$450
<b>Total Cost</b>					<b>\$22,540</b>

required to operate each technology, with the exception of the mobile LA-ICP/AES laboratory, which required four personnel. The number of personnel required for each task (equipment setup, calibration, etc.) was recorded on the daily characterization sheets by FERMCO personnel. The charge rates for the personnel operating the characterization technologies during the field demonstration varied significantly. The charge rate for personnel ranged from \$50 per hour for the technicians operating the mobile LA-ICP/AES laboratory to \$150 per hour for the scientist operating the long-range alpha detector. The labor costs for each of the tasks associated with the collection of data for each of the technologies demonstrated during the field demonstration are shown on the cost sheets presented in Table 1. In addition to travel costs and labor costs, miscellaneous costs such as operating supplies and protective equipment were also included in the cost estimates.

#### 4. FIELD DEMONSTRATION RESULTS

The field demonstration results for each characterization technology are shown in the pie charts presented in Fig. 1 and the bar graphs provided in Fig. 2. The pie charts provide the number of man-hours required for each characterization technology to complete the following activities during the field demonstration: 1) equipment assembly and setup, 2) equipment calibration, 3) site characterization (sampling), and 4) equipment decontamination and disassembly/loading for transport. Although the actual number of hours spent for site characterization varied considerably between technologies, the percentage of time spent for site characterization as a percentage of the total time spent during the demonstration was similar for all of the technologies. As shown in Fig. 1, the majority of the time spent by each technology during the demonstration was used to complete the actual site characterization activities. In general, the pie charts look fairly similar in terms of shading for each activity. However, one exception is that the assembly time and calibration time for the mobile LA-ICP/AES laboratory do not seem to agree with these respective tasks for the other technologies. The assembly time appears high and the calibration time appears to be low, especially when compared to the other technologies.

The bar graphs shown in Fig. 2 also provide the following results from the field demonstration for each characterization technology: 1) the total labor cost associated with equipment assembly and setup, equipment calibration, site characterization, and equipment decontamination and disassembly; 2) the total costs associated with the operation of each technology during the field demonstration; 3) the labor cost per field sample collected; 4) the total cost per field sample collected; 5) the number of days required to collect the field samples; and 6) the total number of man-hours required to complete the field demonstration. To derive the labor cost per sample and the total cost per sample, the respective cost values are divided by the actual number of field samples collected during the field demonstration. Although field data were collected at 89 locations on the sampling grid, many of the characterization technologies actually collected data at a certain location more than once, resulting in a collection of greater than 89 field samples. However, the mobile LA-ICP/AES laboratory crew collected only 83 field samples. In addition, the *in situ* gamma detector technology collected 88 samples in the low setup and 85 samples in the high setup.

The field demonstration results vary greatly between characterization technologies. The number of man-hours required for the field demonstration varied from 18 hours in 2 days of field work for the NaI detector to 283 hours in 9 days of field work for the mobile LA-ICP/AES laboratory. Other technologies with low man-hour requirements for the field demonstration include the electret ion chamber (28), the Fidler detector (30), and the passive radon monitoring technology (31). In terms of man-hours,



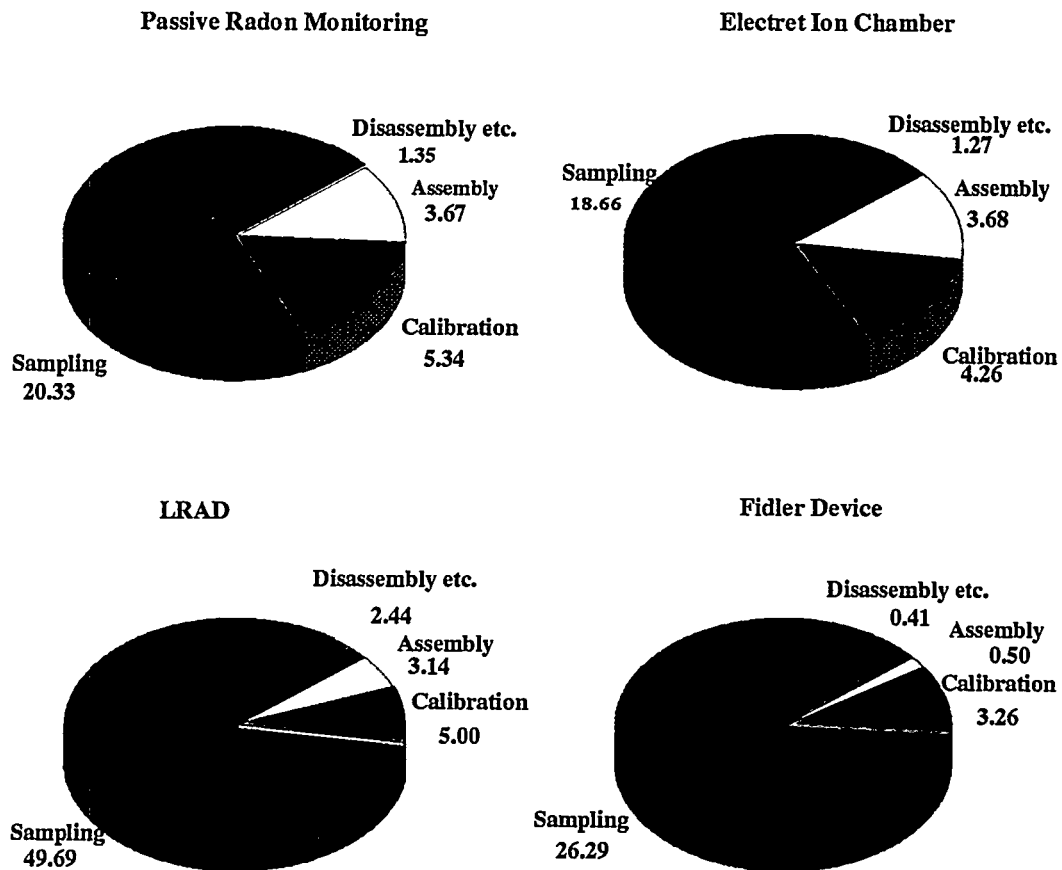
**Fig. 1. Manhour Requirements for Field Demonstration Work**

Fig. 1. (continued)

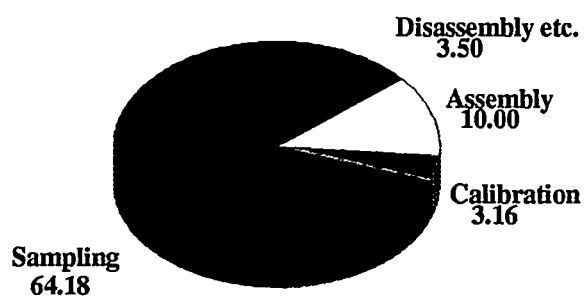
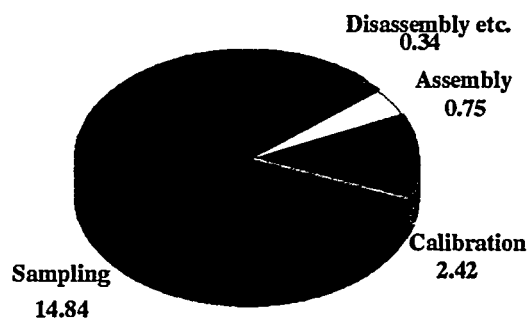
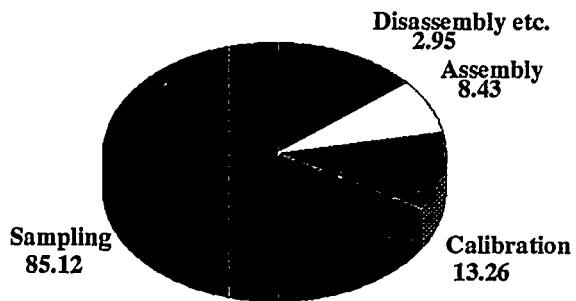
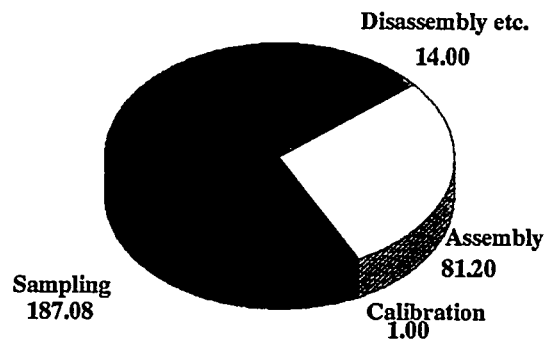
**Gamma Detector (High)****Sodium Iodide Detector**

Fig. 1. (continued)

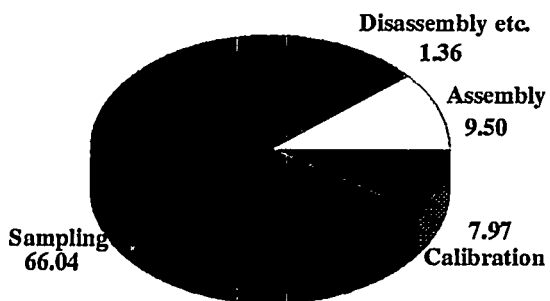
## Beta Scintillation



## LA-ICP-AES



## XRF Detector



## Gamma Detector (Low)

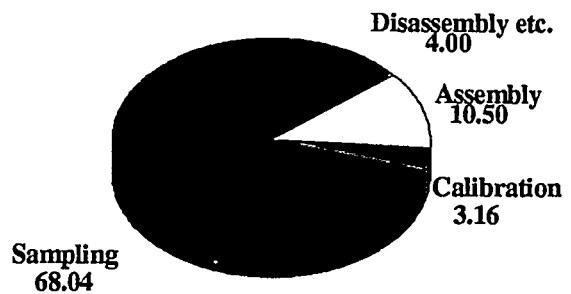
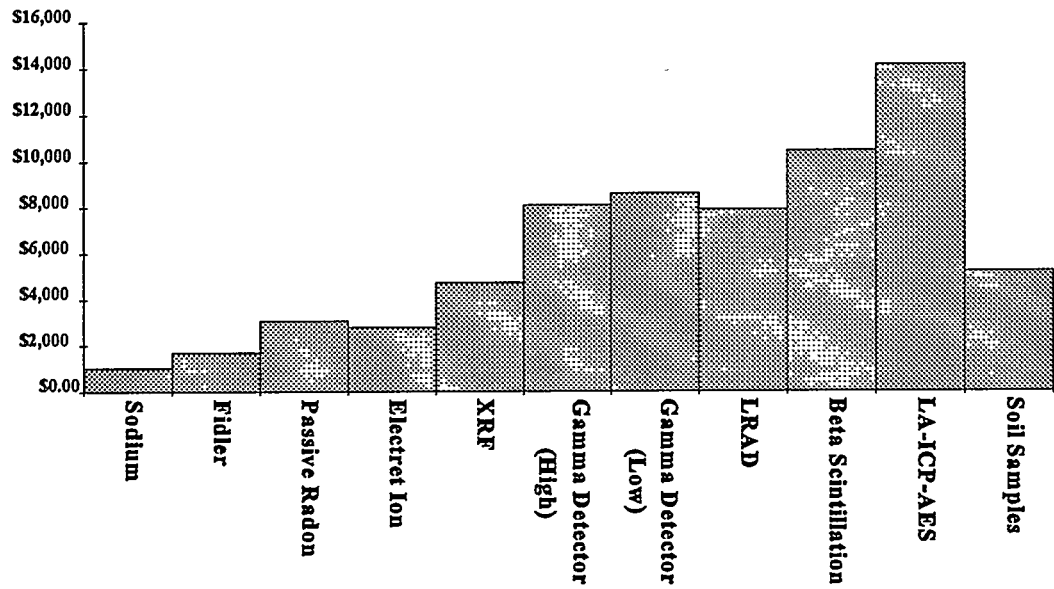


Fig. 2. Summary Results from the Field Demonstration

## Labor Cost



## Total Cost

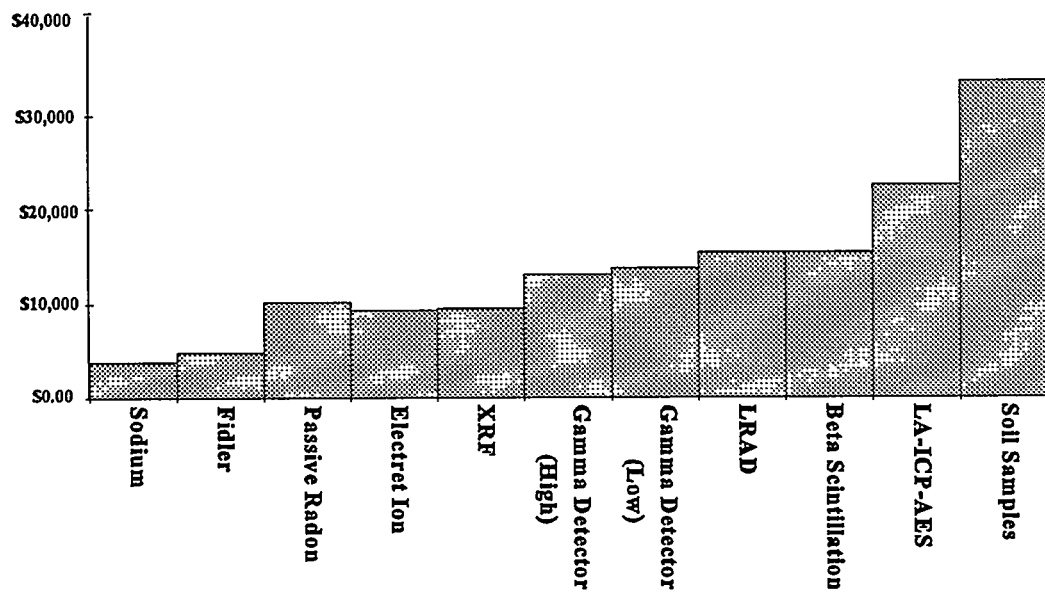
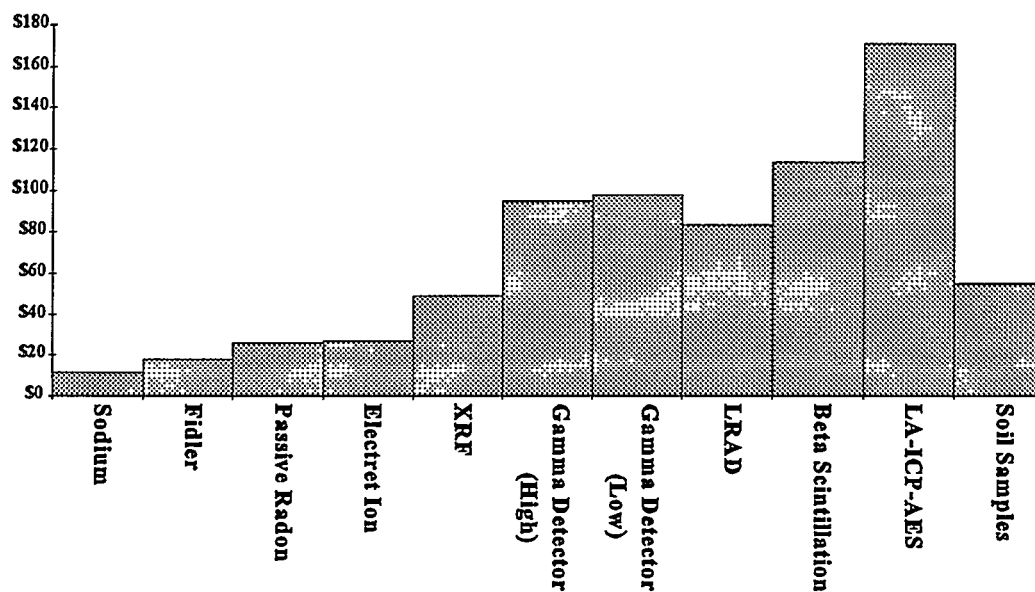


Fig. 2. (continued)

## Labor Cost/Sample



## Total Cost/Sample

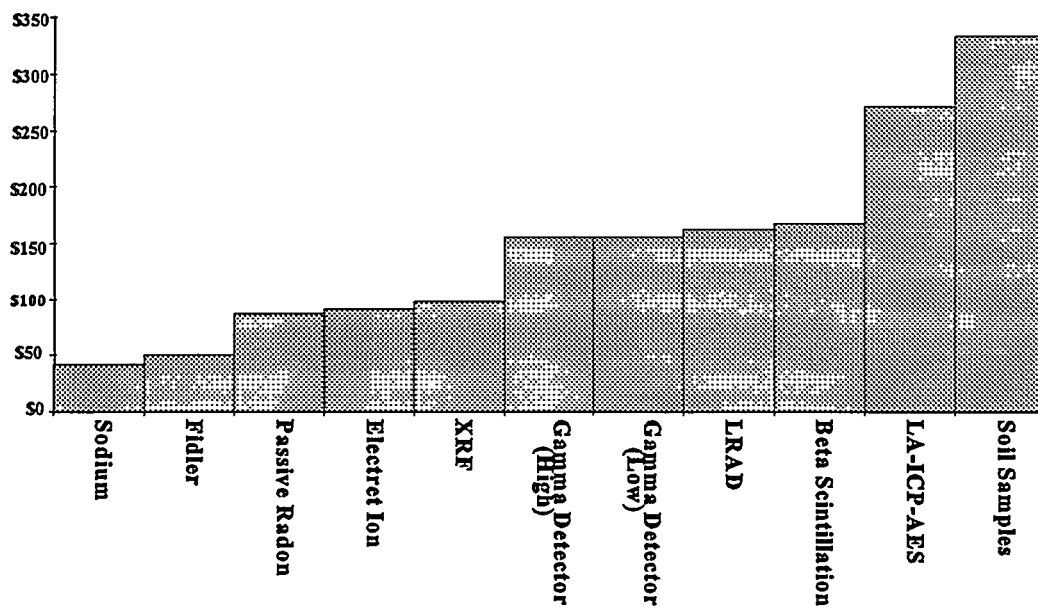
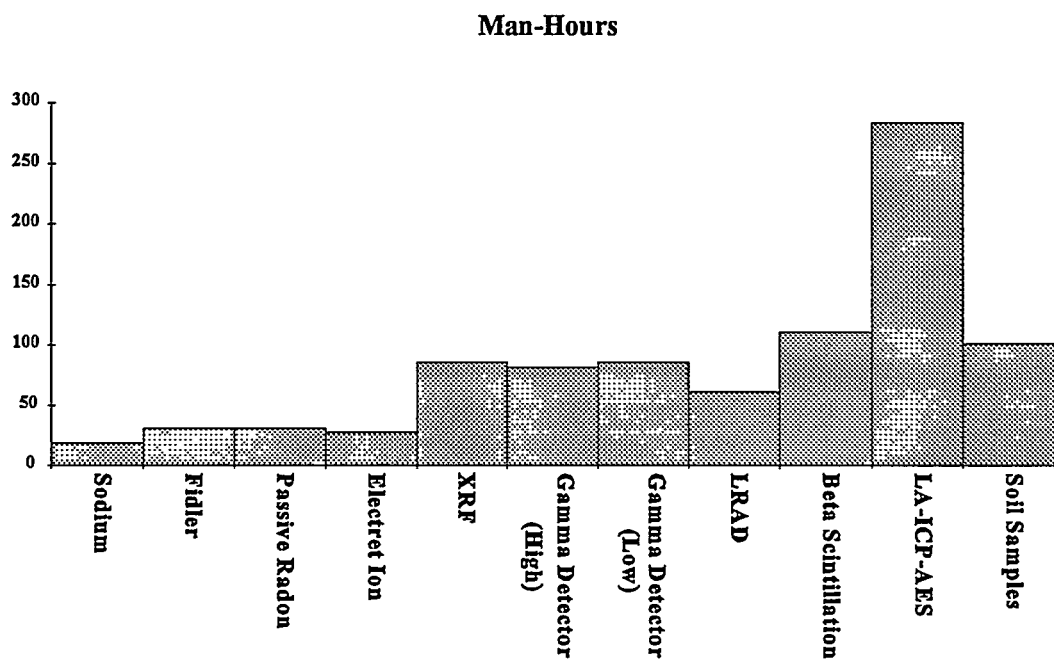
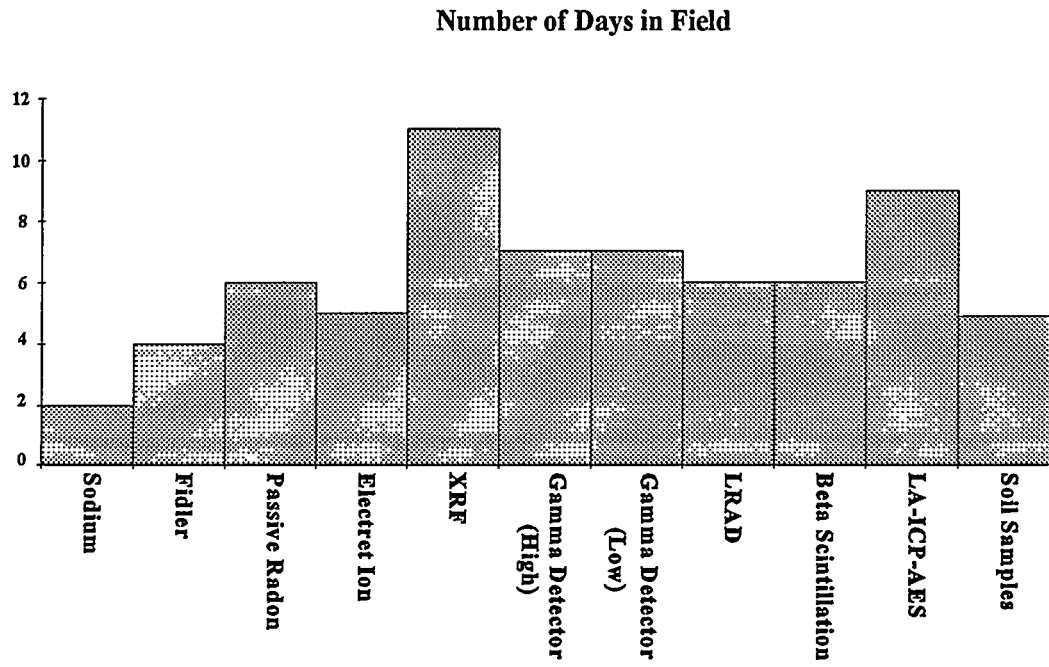


Fig. 2. (continued)



the PNL group operating the beta scintillation detector came closest to the maximum (LA-ICP/AES laboratory at 283 man-hours), requiring 110 man-hours. The number of man-hours for the mobile LA-ICP/AES laboratory is higher because four personnel are required to operate this technology, as compared to two personnel for the other technologies. In addition, the Ames laboratory crew operating the mobile laboratory had mechanical and operational difficulties during the field demonstration. Therefore, approximately 73 man-hours and 2 days in the field resulted in no data collection.

Note that while the mobile LA-ICP/AES laboratory required the most man-hours to conduct the demonstration, it resulted in the least number of field samples collected. With a total of 83 samples collected, data from 6 of the sample locations were not reported. The site characterization was canceled for the mobile laboratory after the collection of the 83 samples due to a malfunction of the laser equipment. Although the XRF detector required the most number of days to collect the field samples (11), the number of man-hours in the field for this technology (85 hours) was low compared to the other characterization technologies.

The number of field samples collected were used to calculate the labor cost per sample and the total cost per values for each characterization technology. However, the number of samples collected in the calibration beds and standards plots were strictly used for instrument calibration so that more accurate data at the 89 field sample locations could be collected. Therefore, even though the labor time to collect the calibration bed and standards plot samples were included in the labor cost calculations, the calibration bed and standards plot samples were not included in calculating the labor cost per sample and total cost per sample values for each technology.

The total labor costs, labor cost per sample, total costs, and total cost per sample for each technology to conduct the field demonstration are shown in Fig. 2. The total labor costs varied from \$1,028 for the NaI detector to \$14,164 for the mobile LA-ICP/AES laboratory. The labor cost per sample for the technologies varied from \$12 for the NaI detector to \$171 for the mobile laboratory. For the soil sampling and laboratory analysis scenario, the labor cost per sample value of \$55 is only for the labor time to collect the field samples and does not include any labor time for laboratory analysis. However, the ICP-MS analysis cost of \$200 per sample (Table 1) covers labor costs for laboratory analysis. The total costs associated with the field demonstration varied from \$3,709 for the NaI detector to \$35,055 for the soil sampling and laboratory analysis. The most economical technology to operate, based on the results of the field demonstration, was the NaI detector at \$42 per field sample, followed by the Fidler detector at \$50 per sample and the passive radon monitoring technology at \$87 per sample. The most expensive technology to operate was the soil sampling and laboratory analysis, with a cost of \$340 a sample, followed by the mobile LA-ICP/AES laboratory at \$272 per field sample and the beta scintillation detector at \$167 per sample.

The personnel labor rate has a major impact on a technology's performance in terms of cost for this field demonstration. In addition to the obvious effect of the personnel charge rate on the labor costs, the charge rate also affects the travel costs since employees must be paid to travel to and from the FERMCO site. This cost was included in the cost estimates since it would be included in an actual bid for characterization work. The total cost per sample values for the conventional characterization technologies (NaI, Fidler, and XRF detectors) are fairly low due to the fact that the FERMCO personnel operating these technologies reported a lower personnel charge rate. It is important to note that although the personnel operating the mobile LA-ICP/AES laboratory reported a low personnel charge rate, the number of personnel required to operate this technology was four, compared to two for the other

technologies. Therefore, it is important to investigate the potential for training technicians (with lower charge rates) to operate the alternative technologies, thereby reducing the costs of operation and making them more cost competitive with the traditional characterization technologies.

## 5. SUMMARY OF THE FIELD DEMONSTRATION

This document summarizes each characterization technology's cost results based on its performance at the field demonstration at the Fernald site in the spring of 1994. The characterization technologies participating in the field demonstration include six alternative technologies developed and demonstrated by various members of the USID Characterization Group and three traditional detectors demonstrated by FERMCO personnel. In addition, standard soil core sampling and laboratory analyses were also conducted by FERMCO personnel as a baseline condition to compare cost and performance measures between the technologies. The final summary sheet, Table 2, summarizes the results of each technology's cost estimates based on field demonstration results. This table also provides the number of days and manhours spent in the field and the number of field samples collected by personnel operating each characterization technology.

The number of days required to collect the data varied considerably between the technologies, ranging from 2 days for the NaI detector to 11 days for the XRF detector. The number of man-hours required to conduct the field demonstration also had a wide range, from 18 hours for the NaI detector to 283 hours for the mobile LA-ICP/AES laboratory. It is important to note that certain characterization technologies were in the field a large number of days but with a low number of manhours. The number of manhours are important in determining the cost competitiveness of the technologies because the labor costs and personnel charge rates are key components in the total costs associated with operating the technologies. The labor costs shown in Table 2 are based strictly on the number of man-hours required to conduct the field demonstration and the charge rate of the technicians or scientists operating the characterization technology. In most cases, the labor costs are based on the time spent in the field to collect the data. However, with some technologies additional labor time was required at the end of the day to manipulate and process the data. The labor hours required to complete this task were included in the site characterization hours.

The labor cost per sample varied from \$12 per sample for the NaI detector to \$171 per sample for the mobile LA-ICP/AES laboratory. The wide variation in the labor costs are primarily a result of the number of man-hours spent in the field collecting the data and the number of personnel required in the field. Whereas most of the characterization technologies required 2 personnel in the field, the mobile LA-ICP/AES laboratory required 4 personnel, resulting in the technology which required the most number of man-hours to complete the field demonstration (283).

The total cost for the field demonstration includes the following costs associated with a site characterization: travel and transportation costs assuming the host site is 500 miles away from the technology operator, labor costs to perform the field demonstration, and miscellaneous costs associated with the operation of the technology, such as personnel protective equipment, fuel, and other equipment necessary to conduct the field demonstration. The results indicate the cheapest technology to operate is the NaI detector at a cost of \$42 per sample. As expected, the most expensive is soil sampling and laboratory analysis at a cost of \$340 per sample. As shown in Table 2, 5 of the characterization technologies cost less than \$100 per sample (NaI, Fidler, passive radon monitoring, electret ion chamber,



Table 2. Summary of the Field Demonstration

Technology	Field Days	Manhours	Number of Samples	Labor Cost	Labor Cost/Sample	Total Cost	Total Cost/Sample
Sodium-iodide (NaI) detector	2	18	89	\$1,028	\$12	\$3,709	\$42
Low-energy scintillation detector (Fidler)	4	30	95	\$1,706	\$18	\$4,771	\$50
Passive Radon Monitoring	6	31	117	\$3,069	\$26	\$10,131	\$87
Electret Ion Chamber	5	28	102	\$2,787	\$27	\$9,337	\$92
X-ray fluorescence (XRF) detector	11	85	97	\$4,753	\$49	\$9,588	\$99
In Situ gamma detector (high)	7	81	85	\$8,084	\$95	\$13,183	\$155
In Situ gamma detector (low)	7	86	88	\$8,570	\$97	\$13,669	\$155
Long-range alpha detector	6	60	95	\$7,926	\$83	\$15,366	\$162
Beta Scintillation Detector	6	110	92	\$10,428	\$113	\$15,391	\$167
LA-ICP/AES laboratory	9	283	83	\$14,164	\$171	\$22,540	\$272
Soil Sampling & Laboratory Analysis	5	101	103	\$5,656	\$55	\$35,055	\$340

and the XRF detector). The *in situ* gamma, long-range alpha, and beta scintillation detectors fall in the range of \$150 to \$200 per sample based on the results of the field demonstration. The only alternative technology with a cost over \$200 per sample was the mobile LA-ICP/AES laboratory, at an estimated cost of \$272 per sample.

The characterization technologies demonstrated at the Fernald field demonstration are based on different scientific principles and are thereby unique in their ability to detect uranium-contaminated soil. The extent of contamination, location of contamination, the uranium form present in the soil, and weather conditions are a few of the factors that could affect the performance of a characterization technology. Therefore, it is difficult to directly compare these technologies since the type and scale of measurement differs for each technology, potentially leading to different data results for the same sample locations. For these reasons, it is important to recognize that each characterization technology is unique and performance cannot be based on cost alone.

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