

## How Well Do You Know Lab Reports? - Making Sense Out of Seemingly Simple Lab Reports

Erin Rodgers..... Environmental Standards  
L. Christopher Oakes.....Norfolk Southern Railway Company

Analytical data are the basis for almost all remedial decisions. A great deal of time and money are spent by the railroad to prepare and plan for sample collection and on laboratory analysis. The data obtained from the analyses are presented by the laboratory via summary reports to railroad remediation project managers. How well do you understand the information provided and summarized in the laboratory reports?

In 15 minutes, we will provide a greater understanding of the information presented in the laboratory reports. This presentation is intended to be interactive and generate dialogue with the audience. Standard laboratory formats and examples will be presented with questions to engage the audience in thinking about the information presented. The questions will be “real-world” examples - questions we have received that were strategically selected to bring out potentially controversial or confusing aspects of data reporting. By understanding the nuances of data reporting, attendees will gain a greater understanding of laboratory reports and a greater appreciation for the importance of upfront planning and communication with the laboratory.