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SFEI Policy: Release of Preliminary Data from the Regional Monitoring Program—Revised May 10, 1999

Information produced by the Regional Monitoring Program is public information and will be made available in a timely manner. However, it is important that any data released to the public have received at least some level of quality assurance review and are considered accurate.

In most cases, SFEI will not release data until they have been subject to complete and final quality assurance procedures, cleared by the RMP QA Officer, and published in a reviewed RMP report. Such data are then considered "Final Data".

SFEI will distribute preliminary data from the program upon request, but will not advertise or encourage their wide dissemination. "Preliminary Data" are raw data that have met data quality objectives prescribed by the QA Plans of the laboratory generating the data, and have been the subject of SFEI's first level of quality assurance review as prescribed in the RMP Quality Assurance Program Plan. Users of preliminary data should realize that further review by SFEI may reveal inaccuracies in preliminary data.

Any preliminary data distributed will have the following statement incorporated:

These are preliminary data. The accuracy and completeness of these data cannot be guaranteed at this time. DO NOT CITE OR QUOTE. Final quality assured data are anticipated to be available by _____ date.

SFEI will keep records of requests for preliminary data, and will periodically inform program participants of such requests. While it will be the responsibility of the party requesting preliminary data to check on the status of data, SFEI will attempt to notify those who request preliminary data when they have been finalized.

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