

Memo: August 10, 2009

To: CUNY Environmental, Health and Safety Council

From: Howard Apsan

Re: Environmental, Health and Safety Officers Meeting Minutes
CUNY Law School, July 9, 2009

Opening

The July meeting of the Environmental Health and Safety Council was held at CUNY Law School on July 9, 2009. Steve Katz, EHSO at the college hosted the meeting and welcomed everyone to the college. Gregory Koster, Vice President for Finance and Administration, also greeted the Council and expressed the college's appreciation for the Council's efforts.

Sheryce Woolery recorded the minutes and the minutes of the previous meeting were approved by acclamation.

EHS Internal Audits

Upcoming audits in the fall are scheduled for Bronx Community College, Borough of Manhattan Community College, the College of Staten Island and the CUNY Law School. An unscheduled audit will also be conducted in the fall. As has been the practice, EH&S Officers from other campuses volunteered to serve on all of these internal audits. This practice provides added value to all involved. Anyone wishing to volunteer for an upcoming audit should contact Michael Spath, Environmental Compliance Manager, CUNY, Central Office, at michael.spath@mail.cuny.edu.

Environmental Compliance Subcommittee Report

The New York State Petroleum Bulk Storage (PBS) requirements have been modified. The key changes include: a broader definition of petroleum to include all fractions of crude oil; changing the definition of facility to include underground tanks greater than 110 gallons; and requiring tanks that are newly regulated because of these changes to be registered with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) by July 21, 2009. Naturally the tanks

cannot be properly registered if they are not in compliance with existing PBS requirements. For more information on the changes, please visit the NYSDEC website at, <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/53278.html> . A copy of all PBS registration should be forwarded to Michael Spath at michael.spath@mail.cuny.edu

The subcommittee plans to establish High Pressure Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) Protocols to address flammable container storage, venting and discharge control, secondary containment and labeling requirements.

EH&S Officers are encouraged to visit the EH&S website, review the EMS, and ensure that their campuses comply with EMS requirements. Please forward any questions to Michael Spath.

Health and Safety Subcommittee

The Health and Safety Subcommittee continues to develop policies and procedures on fire prevention, safety training and spill response. The EH&S Council will be briefed on upcoming training events at the next meeting.

The violation database management system is now fully operational. For more information regarding passwords or problems accessing the website, please contact Kurt Klein, at kurt.klein@mail.cuny.edu .

CUNY EHS Website and Newsletter

EH&S Officers are continually encouraged to contribute articles, editorials, cartoons, web links, and any other items of common professional interest to both the CUNY EHS Newsletter and the CUNY EHSRM website at ehs@mail.cuny.edu. In addition, the CUNY Risk Review, a newsletter focused on risk management issues throughout the CUNY system, is available on the EHSRM website.

Officers are encouraged to utilize Sharepoint to post documents and calendar events, and to engage in informative exchanges. Sharepoint provides us with a valuable communication tool, and at the same time protects the security of any proprietary or simply not-yet-ready-for-release documents. The website, <http://ehsrm.cuny.edu> , is password protected. If you would like to have access to the website, please contact Brian Cabezas at brian.cabezas@mail.cuny.edu .

Training

The training consisted of a presentation by **Mark Pennington, Esq.** of Counsel, **John Osborne PC**, on **Minimizing Environmental Liability: A Lawyer's View**. Mark provided an overview of evolving environmental health and safety regulations. He also spoke about the enforcement priorities of the Obama administration, specifically in regard to green house gas emissions and protecting America's water quality.

Updates in Brief

The next NYCER meeting will be held on August 18, 2008, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Columbia University's, Russ Berrie Conference Room, 1150 St. Nicholas Avenue, in Manhattan. The guest presenter will be **Anne Rinchuiso, Mass Prophylaxis Manager, NYC Department of Public Health**, who will provide a follow- up discussion on **PODs for Colleges and Universities.**

Upcoming Council Meetings

The next EHSO Council meeting is scheduled for September 10, 2009, from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm at the New York City College of Technology, 300 Jay Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201. The meeting will take place in the Namm Building, Grace Gallery, Room number, 1123. **Inspector Sandy Camacho** of the **FDNY** will present on "**Hazardous Materials in non-Laboratory Environments.**"

Adjournment

The Council meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm.