

Memo: September 22, 2010

To: CUNY Environmental, Health and Safety Council

From: Howard Apsan

Re: Environmental, Health and Safety Council Meeting Minutes
Bronx Community College, September 16, 2010

Opening

The Environmental Health and Safety Council meeting was held at Bronx Community College on September 16, 2010. The meeting was hosted by Abner Felix, Environmental Health and Safety Officer at Bronx Community College. Dean David Taylor welcomed the Environmental Health and Safety Council to Bronx Community College and thanked the EH&S Officers for their work throughout CUNY. Dean Taylor also spoke briefly about the exciting construction projects on the BxCC campus. He also invited Council members for a tour of the new library site after the meeting. 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 Kingsborough Community College, Queensborough Community College and The City College of New York. An unscheduled audit will also be conducted in the fall. We are always looking for new members for audit teams, and EH&S Officers are encouraged to volunteer by contacting Michael Spath, Environmental Compliance Manager, CUNY, Central Office, at michael.spath@mail.cuny.edu. Michael indicated that future audits will utilize the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation checklist for petroleum bulk storage tanks and reminded EH&S Officers that audit compliance will include completion of their Environmental Management System metrics.

Environmental Compliance Subcommittee Report

Michael Spath informed the Council that Triumvirate was the successful bidder for the CUNY hazardous waste contract. Brian Roff of Triumvirate reported that the revised pricing structure

should be more cost-effective for the campuses. Brian and Alicia Aniello will be meeting with the college EH&S Officers to review invoices and waste profiles.

Health and Safety Subcommittee Report

The Subcommittee is reviewing New York State Department of Labor requirements to fulfill training obligations under “Right-to-Know”, and will update the Council on its findings. The Subcommittee is also reviewing the new lead regulations to assess what the potential impact on CUNY may be, especially for campus child care centers. Kurt Klein, CUNY’s Health and Safety Manager, reminded the Council that the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) has issued guidelines on mold abatement, but no regulations have yet been promulgated.

The Council was also informed that CUNY is exempted from fees for FDNY inspections. EH&S Officers should contact Kurt and Heather Parlier if their campuses receive any notices of violation.

Finally, the training materials inventory has been posted on SharePoint. EH&S Officers are encouraged to view the spreadsheet, utilize it and make additions where necessary.

Lab Safety Subcommittee Report

The Laboratory Safety Manual has been disseminated to the Campus Presidents and EH&S Officers. Kurt Klein encouraged the officers to use the Manual as a resource to enhance existing lab safety programs. An audit program is being developed based on the Manual, and an annual CUNY seminar on lab safety is being planned.

Health Services

The Health Services Department is currently making plans for the fall flu season. EH&S Officers are asked to provide guidance regarding safe practices and regulatory obligations associated with immunization.

CUNY EHS Newsletter and Website

EH&S Officers are encouraged to contribute articles, editorials, web links, and any other items of common professional interest to both the CUNY EHS Newsletter and the CUNY EHSRM website at <http://www.cuny.edu/ehs>. EH&S Officers are also encouraged to visit the website periodically to review any regulatory updates or other information. As always, Officers are also encouraged to visit SharePoint at <https://ehsrm.cuny.edu/default.aspx> for information on upcoming events, to access forms, and to contribute to and/or review discussions. If you are experiencing difficulty logging in or need a new password, please contact Brian Cabezas, brian.cabezas@mail.cuny.edu.

Presentation

Michael Spath, Environmental Compliance Manager, updated the Council on “**Care and Feeding of Underground Storage Tanks**.” Michael reported that CUNY received a number of violations regarding its petroleum bulk storage tanks because of misinterpretations of the Petroleum Bulk Storage (PBS) regulations. To address this issue, CUNY will use the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Inspection Guide for PBS Tanks and is in the process of developing guidance for improved handling of the tank systems. The DEC Inspection Guide for PBS Tanks will be posted on SharePoint and on the EHSRM website.

Kurt Klein, Health and Safety Manager, updated the Council on “**Changing Fluorescent Bulbs in Laboratories by Maintenance Workers**.” Kurt addressed the safety concerns for maintenance workers changing the fluorescent bulbs in labs. He pointed out that in cases where the bulbs run above the aisles, ladders can be set-up in the aisles without any obstruction. However, in instances where the bulbs run above the lab benches, maintenance workers and personnel should collaborate to ensure that the work area is cleared of chemicals before the bulbs are changed.

Updates in Brief

Triumvirate Environmental will be hosting a seminar and networking event, “**Chemistry for the Environmental Health and Safety Professional**” on Friday October 1, 2010, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at the New York Institute of Technology (Manhattan Campus), 16 West 61st Street, in the 11th floor auditorium. To register for this event, please contact Brian Roff at 516-315-3789.

Nilfisk CLM and Occupational Health & Safety will host a free webinar, “**The ABC's of the RRP: A General Overview of the EPA's New Lead Rule and Best Cleaning Practices**,” on October 6, 2010 at 2 p.m. To register, please visit, <http://www.digital.1105pubs.com/t.do?id=5837911:21612284>

The SEHSA 2010 Conference will be held at the High Peaks Resort, Lake Placid, NY, from November 7 - 10, 2010. SEHSA will celebrate its 20th anniversary. For conference registration, please visit, <http://www.sehsa.org/fall2010.html>.

A Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) is being developed for the launch of CUNYfirst - Campus Solutions, scheduled for this fall. The COOP is intended to facilitate contingency planning for potential service disruptions that may result from the launch. It is currently being reviewed by the Business Continuity Committee. For more information please contact Brian Cabezas, brian.cabezas@mail.cuny.edu.

The next NYCER meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 14, 2010, from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm, at Barnard College.

Upcoming Council Meeting

The next EH&S Officers Council meeting is being hosted by York College and is scheduled for October 14, 2010, from 9:30 am to 11:00 am. The meeting will be held at SUNY's Queens Educational Opportunity Center, 2nd floor, Faculty/Staff Lounge, 158-29 Archer Avenue, in Jamaica. **Sharon Heath, Director, Pesticide Control Program, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH)**, will present on **Bedbug Prevention and Control**.

Adjournment

The Council meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.