

Memo: June 18, 2009

To: New York Campus Environmental Resource (NYCER) Members

From: Howard Apsan

Re: NYCER Meeting Minutes
Marymount Manhattan College, May 20, 2009

Opening

The May NYCER meeting was held at Marymount Manhattan College on May 20, 2009. The meeting began with a welcome by Zinovia Abatzis, Environmental Health and Safety Officer at Marymount Manhattan. Sheryce Woolery of CUNY Central recorded the minutes, and the minutes of the previous meeting were approved by acclamation.

Compliance Tools

Many colleges and universities have established internal auditing programs to ensure compliance and maintain practices developed for the EPA audit and disclosure agreements. Participants noted that unscheduled internal audits and spot inspections are especially valuable, as they prepare campuses for a successful response in the event of an unscheduled regulatory visit. Participants were encouraged to share their internal audit (planned or unannounced audit) efforts, as well as any regulatory enforcement experiences, with other NYCER members.

Some participants discussed related compliance initiatives such as the creation of databases to keep track of compliance violations from the issuing regulatory agencies. The databases reveal campus vulnerabilities and serve as an indicator of areas that need improvement. They also enable the campuses to notify the relevant personnel and to address those issues within a reasonable time frame.

Another topic discussed was the impact of the new fire code requirements on our campuses. Although we had Deputy Inspector Camacho brief NYCER on the new codes, numerous compliance concerns have since emerged. The participants shared some of their experiences, and NYCER plans to invite the FDNY back to address some of the challenges raised.

Presentation

The meeting continued with a presentation by **Tom Baker, Director of Corporate Compliance Veolia Environmental Services**, titled **“Universal Waste, E-Waste and Batteries: Recent and Pending Changes that Impact your Institution’s Compliance Programs.”** Tom discussed various management standards and techniques for universal waste management, which included a close examination of proposed pharmaceutical waste program and an overview of the Department of Transportation (DOT) battery requirements. We thank Tom for an informative and interesting presentation.

Updates in Brief

Columbia University will be hosting the 9th Annual Hazardous Waste Training Seminar on July 23, 2009, at the Hammer Health Science Center, West 168 Street and Fort Washington Avenue. For registration and additional information please contact Chris Pettinato at 212-854-8749.

Persons interested in hosting a NYCER meeting should contact Sheryce Woolery at (212) 794-5630 or sheryce.woolery@mail.cuny.edu . Additionally, anyone wishing to suggest a presentation topic and / or presenter is encouraged to contact Sheryce as well.

Upcoming Meetings

The August NYCER meeting will be held on Tuesday August 18, 2009, from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm at Columbia University, 1150 St. Nicholas Avenue, New York, NY 10032, in the Russ Berrie Conference Room. The meeting will include a presentation by **Anne Rinchiuso, Mass Prophylaxis Plan Manager, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene** titled **“PODs for Colleges and Universities.”**

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm.