

Memo: February 22, 2006

To: New York Campus Environmental Resource (NYCER) Members

From: Howard Apsan

Re: NYCER Meeting Minutes
The City College of New York, January 10, 2006

Opening:

The January meeting of NYCER was held at The City College of New York on January 10, 2006. Richard Belgrave, Environmental Health and Safety Officer at City College, served as host of the meeting, and Karen Belin recorded the minutes. The minutes of the previous NYCER meeting were approved by acclamation.

Richard opened the meeting by welcoming the NYCER membership to City College. Lois Cronholm, Vice President, and Richard Slawski, Assistant Vice President at City College, also extended greetings to the group and emphasized the important task of pandemic preparedness that universities must undertake. Afterwards, the members took a few moments to introduce themselves.

Audits

At CUNY, final disclosure documents from the recent Hostos Community College and Medgar Evers College audits were submitted to the EPA earlier this month. Upcoming audits are scheduled for March 27th at John Jay and April 3rd at Baruch College. Several other NYCER universities and hospitals are also preparing for their upcoming audits.

Updates in Brief:

Yvonne Guariglia, Director of Safety at St. Luke's Roosevelt Hospital, distributed information on avian flu, and a New York City Office of Emergency Management (NYC OEM) emergency planning document. Additional information can be found on the NYC OEM website at <http://www.nyc.gov/html/oem/>.

The New York Metropolitan Regional meeting of the Auditing Roundtable was held at the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Region II headquarters in New York City on November 9, 2005. Among the regulatory matters discussed, EPA representatives highlighted the agency's assessment of the EPA Audit Initiative, and the EPA's effort to reevaluate its existing laboratory waste management requirements. Additional Auditing Roundtable news and meeting updates can be found on the web at <http://www.auditing-roundtable.org>.

Presentation: Crisis Management and the Avian Flu Pandemic

The meeting continued with a presentation from Neal Drawas, Managing Director in Corporate Preparedness at Kroll Associates on “Crisis Management and the Avian Flu Pandemic.” Neal gave NYCER a thorough overview of avian flu and presented specific steps that organizations can take to enhance preparedness. A lively discussion ensued on a number of the points, including evaluating the pandemic’s projected impacts, developing communication and monitoring procedures, enforcing personal hygiene and travel protocols, implementing emergency response training, and developing a crisis communication plan. Neal welcomed our questions and comments, and noted that additional resources and assistance can be obtained from the Kroll Corporate Preparedness offices at 900 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10022, (212) 593-1000. We thank Neal for his presentation.

Upcoming Meetings:

The upcoming NYCER luncheon meeting will be held on March 21, 2006 at Polytechnic University, at Five MetroTech Center in downtown Brooklyn in the Dibner Library from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm. The meeting will be held in room LC-400 and will include a special presentation by **Adam Steinman, Senior Vice President of Regulatory Compliance, at Woodard & Curran**, on **EPA’s Proposed Rule for College and University Laboratories.**

The NYCER schedule for the year 2006 was distributed along with a request for volunteers to host the upcoming meetings. Upcoming meetings will be held on **March 21st, May 23rd, July 25th, September 26th, and November 14th**. All those interested in hosting may contact Karen Belin at (212) 794-5630 or at karen.belin@mail.cuny.edu. Thank you in advance.

The Spring 2006 SUNY Environmental Health and Safety Association (SEHSA) Conference will focus on campus fire safety and will be held at Hudson Valley Community College on March 21, 2006. For more information, visit the SEHSA website at www.sehsa.org.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm.