

Date: November 19, 2010
To: New York Campus Environmental Resource (NYCER) Members
From: Howard Apsan
Re: NYCER Meeting Minutes
LaGuardia Community College, September 15, 2010

Opening

The September NYCER meeting was held at LaGuardia Community College on September 15, 2010. Richard Elliot, Vice President for Administration, welcomed everyone and thanked the EH&S officers for their continued efforts. Sheryce Woolery of CUNY Environmental, Health, Safety and Risk Management recorded the minutes. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved by acclamation.

Audits and Regulatory Inspections

The EPA has conducted a number of follow-up audits at Queens College, St. Luke's Hospital and St. John's University. The Queens College audit concentrated on research laboratories and addressed issues such as proper storage of old, abandoned and inherently waste-like chemicals; compatibility of chemical storage; notification of local emergency agencies; and proper placement of fire extinguishers. Some issues that were raised in the St. Luke's inspections included proper labeling of containers; disposal of abandoned chemicals; and adequate aisle space. The St. John's University inspection addressed minimizing waste and familiarity with regulations and campus records. Incidentally the St. Luke's EHS officer was off-site during the inspection, reminding us all of the importance of backup and contingency planning.

Brian Roff, Account Manager-Higher Education at Triumvirate Environmental, suggested that containers should be re-labeled periodically and signed or initialed to indicate that the researcher knows the chemical exists and plans to use it.

Walter Julias of Mt. Sinai Medical Center noted that Mt. Sinai has a protocol for training its

personnel in handling an inspection. Staff members are trained how to answer an inspector's questions effectively. Furthermore, when an inspector arrives on campus, an e-mail is sent out to notify all staff. It was suggested that Mt. Sinai present on its audit preparation procedures.

Presentation

Josh Sarett, President of ALC Environmental Inc. presented on "**New York City Local Law 1 of 2004 and the EPA Renovation, Repair and Painting Final Rule.**" Mr. Sarett discussed the new EPA requirements that went into effect April 22, 2010. He suggested that institutions develop a plan to ensure compliance with the revised federal rule and the current city rule. There are a number of areas where the two seemed inconsistent. For example, the federal law states that only one person must be trained on a team conducting site preparation and site clean-up, while the state law requires everyone on the team to be trained. In such cases, institutions must follow the most stringent requirement.

Updates in Brief

NYCER was briefed on revised New York State OSHA/PESH regulations regarding Workplace Violence Prevention. The revised regulations require greater union involvement in the development of the program, and training for all employees.

Flu season has begun. The NYC Department of Mental Health and Hygiene has informational posters available on its flu portal, <http://www.nyc.gov/flu>. Additionally, this year's flu-shots will feature a single trivalent vaccine.

Hurricane season ends November 30th. Colleges are encouraged to ensure that their institutions are prepared for coastal storms by visiting the NYC Office of Emergency Management's website, <http://www.nyc.gov/oem>.

CUNY has developed a Laboratory Safety Manual based on the Cornell Laboratory Safety Manual that was distributed through the SEHSA listserv. The CUNY Manual includes New York City regulations that were not included in the Cornell document. The CUNY Manual is available for download at <http://www.cuny.edu/ehs>. Please be aware that this manual is specific for CUNY and should be customized for any other institution before use.

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

The University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey School of Public Health, in collaboration with Long Island University Brooklyn Campus, will be conducting the Department of Transportation Hazardous Materials Course. The course satisfies the training requirements of CFC 49 Subpart H § 172.700 to 172.704 (DOT Hazardous Materials Training). The course will be held at Long Island University Brooklyn Campus on December 9, 2010, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For further information please contact Michael Ng at 718-488-1608 or michael.ng@liu.edu

NYCER Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2010

Page 3 of 3

NYCER meetings for 2011 will be scheduled for the months of March, June, September and December. Those able to host a meeting should contact Sheryce Woolery at (212) 794-5630 or sheryce.woolery@mail.cuny.edu. Anyone wishing to suggest a specific presentation topic or presenter is also encouraged to contact Sheryce.

The next NYCER meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 14, 2010, from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm, at Barnard College, 3009 Broadway, in Manhattan. **Sal Tranchina, Senior Director of Environmental Health and Safety, The Mount Sinai Medical Center** and **Rich Walka, Senior Vice President, Dvirka and Bartilucci Consulting Engineers**, will be presenting on "**Surviving a Regulatory Agency Inspection.**"

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm.