

LABORATORY SAFETY COMMITTEE

August 15, 2011

TO: All Laboratory Personnel

FROM: John Park, Laboratory Safety Committee

SUBJECT: August 8, 2011 Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

Participants: Anne Chandler, Joe Jurgevich, Heather Morgan, Max Overman, John Park, James Staley, Mark Starr

CHP 2011 Revision: There was discussion about the revisions that each committee member had for their assigned sections of the Laboratory's Chemical Hygiene Plan (CHP). There were only a few changes noted, and most of this year's revisions will be to add information discussed during the past year (e.g., guidelines for cell phone use in laboratory areas; a secondary gathering location for emergency evacuations). Max and John will begin to incorporate the changes into a draft 2011 revision. Once the changes are completed, the draft will be sent to committee members for a final review. Important changes or additions to the CHP will be highlighted in future minutes for safety meetings. Once the CHP is finalized, it will be sent to Steve Kaasa for final review and approval.

CHP and Safety Issues: A couple of issues were raised during the CHP discussion that would require action beyond the CHP revision itself. Joe noted that in the CHP it is stated that any electric outlets within 6 linear feet of water will be upgraded to GCFI outlets (which act as an intermediate circuit breaker to help prevent electrical shocks). Although this has been done in certain locations, there may need to be a better assessment of these situations to put the lab in compliance with the CHP.

Anne asked if we should have a building map of the Certification modular building in the CHP. The possibility of having a safety committee representative from the modular building was also discussed. The certification rep might not be assigned to one person, but be a rotating representative.

Neutralization Tank: Max reported that the limestone for the neutralization tank was replaced on August 6, 2011. This involved removal of the old limestone and addition of 9000 pounds of new limestone to the neutralization tank, which is underground and located near the loading dock of the ESS building. The tank is approximately 1200 gallons in capacity, and water from sinks in the chemistry laboratory units (as well as from ESS labs) passes through the tank for neutralization prior to entering the city sewage line. The company that performed the replacement did an excellent job, and everything went smoothly. Thanks to Kent and Joy for all of their work in the bidding and budget processes.

Building Renovations: The renovations planned for the laboratory building are still scheduled to happen this year. There was discussion of how this will affect lab units and lab personnel. From a safety standpoint, the main issues would likely be any dust or noise from work on the fume hoods and ceilings in the lab units. At this point, it looks like lab units might be able to still function (to some degree) during some of the renovations; however, this will likely be a unit-by-unit determination. Any lab units with several fume hoods (e.g., metals digestion and SV/Pesticides extraction) will be more affected and may

be unable to use these areas during renovations. If you have any concerns, please communicate them to your safety committee representative and/or unit supervisor.

A reminder to safety committee members: checks of the safety devices for each lab unit should be conducted and documented on a monthly basis. This includes eyewashes, safety showers, fire extinguishers, and smoke detectors. For safety hoods, please check every three months with the velometer (located in John's office).

The next safety committee meeting is scheduled for September 12, 2011 at 10:30 a.m. Minutes were prepared by Max Overman and John Park on August 15, 2011. MO/JP