

LABORATORY SAFETY COMMITTEE

November 8, 2012

TO: All Laboratory Personnel

FROM: Max Overman, Laboratory Safety Committee

SUBJECT: November 5, 2012 Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

Participants: Anne Chandler, Edith Henderson, Magdi Ibrahim, Joe Jurgevich, Heather Morgan, Max Overman, John Park, James Staley

Laboratory CHP Revision 2012:

John distributed hard-copies of the 2012 CHP to each lab unit. A hard copy of the CHP should be maintained in each lab unit, in an easily accessible location.

Acid fumes (metals lab):

There was follow-up discussion of acid fumes that were experienced in the metals unit recently during digestion of soil samples in a large waterbath. The waterbath sits under a large canopy hood, but the canopy hood doesn't always fully contain acid fumes generated during the digestion process. Joe reported that adjustments have been made to the canopy hood, which doubled the air flow. Until a soil digestion is conducted with these adjustments, we will not know for sure if the problem has been corrected. However, since the air flow has been adjusted as much as possible, further adjustments to this canopy hood would have to involve the front opening of the hood (which is something that the engineer involved with the adjustments recommended).

Chemical Waste Pick-up:

Veolia ES came out to the lab on Wednesday, November 7th, and removed a large quantity of old chemicals and standards. This pick-up included old chemicals in the acid storage room, old mercury thermometers, old PT vials in room G031, and old standards from the extractions freezer. There was discussion of how to collect and segregate old chemicals in the future, such as storage boxes in the acid storage that are labeled for specific types of chemicals (e.g., oxidizers) and more organization in transferring chemicals to the storage room. Anne also suggested maintaining an inventory of chemicals/waste for the lab that would be located on the shared network drive.

Organic Extractions:

Anne mentioned that she has begun looking into whether micro-level extractions procedures could be used in the SV/Pesticides extraction processes. These type of extraction methods are available, but we have to be sure that they are EPA-accepted and acceptable for NPDES permit samples. These types of procedures would use much smaller amounts of solvents, increasing safety for lab personnel and greatly reducing solvent waste.

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 and drench hoses, safety

showers, fire extinguishers, and smoke detectors. For fume hoods, please check each hood every three months with the velometer (located in John's office).

The next safety committee meeting is scheduled for December 3, 2012 at 10:30 a.m. Minutes were prepared by Max Overman and John Park on November 8, 2012. MO/JP