

LABORATORY SAFETY COMMITTEE

February 25, 2010

TO: All Laboratory Personnel

FROM: John Park, Laboratory Safety Committee

SUBJECT: February 15, 2010 Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

Participants: John Park, Max Overman, Jeanne Carter, Steve Kaasa, Joe Jurgevich, Beth Swanson, Edith Henderson, Heather Parker

Regarding chemicals and materials in the lab to be discarded, Max said that there are some ECD detectors (low radiation) and mercury thermometers that are highest priority for disposal. We hope to get price quotes and have these materials removed in the next month or two. As for old chemicals in the storage rooms, Max has submitted lists to Kent, who is contacting other state agencies who might have use of the chemicals. Two old containers of ethanol have already been taken, and several more chemicals may be of interest to another agency. Eventually, any chemicals still remaining will be part of future disposals.

Regarding fume hoods in the lab, Max said that Mike Rose from Precision Air Technology serviced three of the fume hoods in January. The fume hood in room G047 required recalibration, after which it was functioning within the OSHA limits of 80 to 120 feet-per-minute (fpm). The fume hood in room G091 and one of the fume hoods in room G043 were also serviced. We hope to have more hoods in the lab serviced and checked during the next few months.

Steve Kaasa joined the meeting to discuss the liquid Argon storage tank that is located on the west side of the building, near the loading dock. Max received information from Machine and Welding Supply Company (who supplies our compressed gases and argon) concerning the Emergency Planning and Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), Tier II, and the annual reporting requirement for certain bulk storage and compressed liquids/gases. During 2009, the liquid argon was above the 860 gallons (10,000 pounds) threshold specified for Tier II reporting and will therefore be reported. Steve stated that the report form must be submitted to the state and local emergency response/planning agencies, and the local fire department, no later than March 1, 2010. Steve will find more information about the state and local agencies; John will determine which local fire station we need to report to, and Max will complete the report form.

Edith asked about physicals for laboratory employees, which have not been conducted in nearly two years. Steve informed us that physicals are actually not required by any regulations that relate to the lab. The level of exposure for most employees is below the threshold that would require routine physicals to be conducted. However, areas in the lab where extractions are conducted using hazardous chemicals (e.g., semi-volatiles/pesticides and Wet Chemistry) are a concern. Steve said that we would have to wait until the beginning of the next fiscal year before there is any chance of having physicals, that we need to continue baseline physicals for new employees, and that maybe we could do routine physicals every 2 to 3 years instead of annually.

Steve asked that we augment the section of the lab's Chemical Hygiene Plan (CHP) that covers particularly hazardous substances (e.g., carcinogens and mutagens). This will include adding the list of particularly hazardous substances that was put together last year. Steve also recommended assessing lab procedures that involve these substances to determine if any changes need to be made regarding disposal and to minimize exposure. John mentioned that the SOP for each lab analysis or procedure includes a safety section that likely covers these concerns.

It is time again for the quarterly safety inspection of the laboratory. John and Max will conduct the inspection during the last week in February or first week of March.

The next safety committee meeting is scheduled for March 1, 2010 at 10:30 a.m. Minutes were prepared by Max Overman and Jeanne Carter on February 17, 2010.

JP/mo/jc