## LABORATORY SAFETY COMMITTEE

## April 17, 2012

**TO:** All Laboratory Personnel

FROM: John Park, Laboratory Safety Committee

**SUBJECT:** April 16, 2012 Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

Participants: Peggy Campbell, Anne Chandler, Magdi Ibrahim, Joe Jurgevich, Heather Morgan, Max

Overman, John Park, James Staley

<u>Building Renovations</u>: There was discussion regarding the on-going renovations of the laboratory. Most of the work in the laboratory building is now complete. Work inside the building will now be installation of controls, balancing controls, and final testing of the fume hoods. There are also some fire sprinklers that will have to be adjusted.

The new fume hood motors still have to be completed, as well as connecting all of the lab fume hoods to the new trunk lines on the roof that run out to each end of the building. This work will take place in April and May. Once the fume hood work is completed, final testing of each hood will be done, as well as balancing of the air handling and fume hood controls.

If all goes as scheduled, it looks like the lab renovations will be completed around May 20<sup>th</sup>.

One issue that had arisen from the installation of the new ceilings was that the pull handles for safety showers in the lab units had been blocked. Now all ceiling tiles have been installed and all of the safety showers are working properly.

<u>Argon Storage Tank</u>: A new argon storage tank was installed recently and is about half the size of the previous tank. This will keep the lab below the reporting threshold for EPCRA/Tier II reporting (although we'll still have to report the argon tank for Wake County, which has a threshold of 50 gallons). The new tank will also help to minimize loss of argon and is more in line with the amount of argon used by the lab.

<u>ECD's</u>: Anne reported that she submitted a price quote to DWQ/Archdale for disposal of the old ECD's in the Pesticides lab. The request was rejected for this fiscal year, but is likely to be done in the next fiscal year. Anne and Kent will continue to pursue this issue (after the meeting, Anne found out that we may be able to proceed with the disposal this fiscal year).

<u>Autoclave</u>: James mentioned an incident of someone opening the door of the large autoclave (in the receiving room) while there was still a pressure reading of 7 to 8 psi. Autoclaves should <u>not</u> be opened until there is a reading of 0 psi; opening an autoclave still under pressure can result in burns from escaping steam, or worse. The large autoclave is scheduled to be replaced in the near future, and hopefully the new autoclave will have a safety feature and/or more visible pressure reading to help prevent the door being opened while the autoclave is under pressure.

<u>Techno-Trash</u>: Heather asked about having the techno-trash box picked up for disposal. The box is full and there are several old UPS units ready for disposal. Magdi said that he will contact Paul Clark to follow up on having the trash picked up.

Weather Radios: We still need to purchase one or two new weather radios for the lab.

<u>A reminder to safety committee members</u>: 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). Note that the fume hoods have not undergone finally balancing and testing, so a simple check of air flow is sufficient until final balancing of the controls is completed. If you see an issue with air flow in a hood, please contact Anne, John, or Max.

The next safety committee meeting is scheduled for May 7th, 2012 at 10:30 a.m. Minutes were prepared by Max Overman and John Park on April 17, 2012. MO/JP