

LABORATORY SAFETY COMMITTEE

February 8, 2012

TO: All Laboratory Personnel

FROM: John Park, Laboratory Safety Committee

SUBJECT: February 6, 2012 Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

Participants: Anne Chandler, Edith Henderson, Joe Jurgevich, Max Overman, John Park, James Staley, Mark Starr

Building Renovations: There was discussion regarding the on-going renovations of the laboratory. Areas currently closed due to renovation include Nutrients, Microbiology, Wet Chemistry, and the acid storage room. Areas that are open but have not been completed include the SV/Pesticides extraction room, metals digestion room, Volatiles lab, stock room, and the receiving room. Areas that have not yet been started on include the analyses labs for Semi-Volatiles, Pesticides, and Metals.

The metals digestion room was reopened this week. One of the fume hoods malfunctioned; the belt on the hood motor had to be replaced. This room, as well as several others in the lab, still needs the new ceiling installed (which involves lowering of the fire suppression sprinklers and air-handling ductwork, plus installation of new lights). The ceiling work is currently expected to begin the week of February 6 (note: fire suppression sprinkler work should begin on February 9).

Edith mentioned that the flow alarm on the new control box for one of the fume hoods in the SV/Pesticides extraction area was repeatedly sounding when the hood sash door was fully opened. Pressing the mute button would only temporarily silence the alarm. This is occurring in other areas as well, including metals digestion and volatiles. Until the fume hoods are connected to the new hood motor, and the controls calibrated, this may be an issue that we just have to work around. These hoods have been flow-tested prior to use and air flow was acceptable. However, if a fume hood does appear to have an air flow issue (check with velometer), please contact Anne, Roy, or Kent.

There was discussion about the new fume hood motors, which are located on the top of the penthouse. James asked about how the fume hoods handle heavy rain and whether they are grounded to withstand lightning strikes. Although no answers could be provided, this type of fume hood motor is becoming the industry standard and should include design features to handle weather. There will now be two fume hood motors (one will run while the other is a back-up). There will be a trunk line running from the motors to each side of the building, and all fume hoods (except smaller fume cabinets, which are connected the main lab exhaust system) will be connected to the trunk lines. The damper for each hood will now be located outside. The hood and air-handling controls will be set and balanced towards the end of renovation.

If anyone needs to enter an area under renovation, please try to do so only when work is not occurring, and wear a hard hat.

EPCRA/Tier II Reporting: Max mentioned that the annual EPCRA/Tier II reporting for the laboratory will be completed in February to be submitted to Steve Kaasa, who will send the reports to the appropriate agencies. This reporting covers any chemicals stored on-site in large quantities, exceeding limits

specified by EPCRA and Wake County. For 2011, it appears that the chemicals that require reporting will be the same as previous years: argon (storage tank) and methylene chloride (solvent storage room). There are plans to replace the current argon storage tank with a small tank, which would keep the lab below the reporting limit for argon.

Solvent Waste: Max reported that one solvent waste drum (located in solvent storage room) is now full, and the other drum is empty and will begin to be used with the next waste transfer. The exhaust fan for the solvent storage room was found to not be working on January 30th; the fan motor on the roof had burnt out and was replaced with a new motor on January 31. The exhaust system is now working properly; note that solvent waste was not transferred to the waste drums until the exhaust fan was working and that the exhaust fan and that waste drums are checked on a weekly basis.

ECD's: Anne reported that annual radiation wipe tests of the ECD's (Electron Capture Devices, located in the Pesticide analysis lab) detected no radiation for any of the ECD's. The report will include a recommendation that the older ECD's that are being stored in the lab should be removed for disposal. Anne has been looking into disposal, which may expensive for a few of the oldest ECD's.

Ants: John mentioned that he had found a small ant colony in his office, located near a damaged floor tile. Not sure how the ants managed to build a nest inside the room, but this will need to be remedied.

Safety Inspection: Anne, John, and Max plan to conduct a safety inspection of the laboratory in February. Note: the inspection was completed on February 6 and did not include lab areas that are currently closed; results will be included in the March safety meeting.

Note: The safety committee meeting scheduled for January was cancelled.

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). Hoods in areas undergoing renovation do not have to be checked until work is completed in the area.

The next safety committee meeting is scheduled for March 6, 2012 at 10:30 a.m. Minutes were prepared by Max Overman and John Park on February 7, 2012. MO/JP