

AFRD ES&H Operations Committee
71J Conference Room
August 3, 2007
2:00 – 3:00 PM

Minutes

Attendees: Ken Barat, Daryl Horler, Steve Lidia, Tom McVeigh, Tom Scarvie, Peter Seidl, Pat Thomas, Csaba Toth, Weyland Wong

1. ES&H News and Lessons Learned

ISM discussion: subway accident – Joe Chew provided a link to an article in the August 2, 2007 New York Times, “Safety Violations Cited for Deaths in Subway Work”. The committee discussed the causal factors of the subway accident that are commonly applicable to other accidents, including: lack of planning, work procedures that were either deficient or not followed, poor communication of changes, inadequate signaling, and poor coordination of roles and responsibilities.

“Work Lead” definition – The external reviews conducted last year found that LBNL has many people who help direct others in the safe performance of day-to-day work, but are not officially “supervisors” as defined by Human Resources. Some examples would be a group “deputy” or experienced postdoc or giving direction to less experienced researchers on behalf of the Principal Investigator, or an experienced technician overseeing the work of other people in a shop. There was a concern that people acting as “work leads” may not be adequately trained for their roles. EH&S is developing a Work Lead training class. They have asked each division to submit a list of people that may be considered Work Leads by August 13. AFRD Program Heads and Program Safety Coordinators have been asked to provide lists of their potential Work Leads to Pat Thomas.

Solvent wipe records – LBNL has a permit from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) to conduct solvent wiping operations. BAAQMD regulations do not set a threshold use level for internally tracking wipe cleaning activities, nor do they differentiate between research and support activities. LBNL is required to track the quantity of solvent used for wipe cleaning, and submit quarterly reports to BAAQMD. A recent inspection of permitted activities by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District found a need to update location and contact information where wipe cleaning activities occur around the entire site. Pat Thomas has submitted information on contact people for each AFRD area to Patrick Thorson, who manages the air permit

program in EH&S. Patrick will need to provide training to the contact people on what is expected of them.

Laser training documentation – Ken Barat received a call from the Berkeley Site Office asking how LBNL was progressing on ensuring documentation of completion of On-the-Job Training (OJT) by laser users. The mechanism for documentation the lab has agreed to is that the trainer and trainee must sign a form indicating the OJT was accomplished. An electronic signature that one read the AHD is required, but is not sufficient documentation that all OJT required by the AHD has been completed. LBNL committed to setting up a mechanism for documenting OJT by 4/30/07. Ken Barat sent all the laser users a sample paper form that meets our needs. PIs can use other methods to document OJT, but they must be able to find the records quickly to demonstrate compliance during audits. Ken reminded all parties we cannot forget about the recordkeeping requirements.

Other (non-laser) AHDs also require authorized personnel to read and sign them. PIs should direct their people to the AHD database and ensure that the sign-offs have been completed. They also need to keep records of any OJT required by their AHDs.

SAA inspections coming -- The City of Berkeley has confirmed that they will be here on Aug 21 (Tuesday) to do SAA inspections. SAA “owners” are reminded to be vigilant in maintaining their SAAs. If you have any questions, please call our Generator Assistant, Maram Kassis. We won't know which buildings the inspector wants to go to until he arrives, so we should be sure all our SAAs are ready.

Laser printer concerns – An Australian research group recently published a study indicating that some laser printers may emit small particles into the air that could cause health concerns. The study sample was small and the results raise additional questions that will require more research. Our Industrial Hygienist, Betsy MacGowan, responded to an employee concern by measuring the particulate emissions from printers in Bldg. 47. She found that the emissions drop off rapidly with distance and suggested that reasonable precautions would be to locate printers so that they are not directly next to workstations and to not stand over printers while they are printing. Anyone who has concerns about printers may contact Betsy MacGowan for assistance.

AFRD ISM plan revisions – Pat Thomas is working on the annual update to the AFRD Integrated Safety Management Plan. The 2006 version is posted on the AFRD website. A 2007 draft will be sent out to AFRD management and Program Safety Coordinators soon for review. Anyone who has suggestions on how to improve our safety program is welcome to provide input.

2. Program Forum

Fusion Science has some new equipment coming for the NDCX experiment. For their Project Call wish list, Fusion would like to have the lighting in Bldg. 58 upgraded and would also like to have a cover/canopy over the back patio between Bldg. 58 and 58A.

Ion Beam Technology is getting ready for installation of the Rutherford Backscattering System. They had some frustration with getting old chemicals labeled as waste and put on requisitions for disposal. They received different information from several people at EH&S, and there were difficulties in using the interface between the Chemical Management System and the hazardous waste requisition system. At Bldg. 16, Jani Reijonen is working on fast switching at Test Stand 3.

Supercon is working on the LARP magnets for Fermilab. Roy Hannaford is looking for a 30-40 ft. flat space with a crane for work on the LARP racetrack structures. Al Lietzke's group is waiting for Kirk Locks. They are working on improving their test procedures.

LOASIS is looking forward to their new lab space in bldg. 71. The first phase of construction has been completed, and the second phase will begin soon. It will involve pouring concrete for walls. An undulator magnet is coming for cave A. The plan was to bring it to Bldg. 77, but there may be a conflict with plans to do a television shoot of the SNAP model. LOASIS did their 6-month test of the interlock system and will send the results to Ken Barat. They also had a clean-up day. They have some questions about ethylene glycol storage and disposal. Betsy MacGowan can answer questions about safe storage and use of chemicals, and Maram Kassis can answer questions about disposal. Ethylene glycol is hazardous waste when disposed.

ALS Accelerator Physics described a shielding control violation that occurred at ALS. A shielding change form must be filed before taking a beamline off-line to make modifications to anything that controls radiation. A group began work without confirming that the change form had been filed, and then did additional work that was not described on the change form. The beamline has been locked out. The Radiation Safety Committee will review the incident and recommend corrective actions. The review and corrective actions must be completed within 30 days.

EH&S Liaison Ken Barat described a near-miss incident at Brookhaven where a laser interlock system was incorrectly wired and had not been fixed for years because the researchers were afraid that reporting the problem would result in their lab being shut down.

Ken has been working with Richard DeBusk on putting the final touches on the Bldg. 71 seismic safety plan, adding some information requested by DOE

reviewers. The Bldg. 71 and 52 seismic safety training completions are being entered into the EH&S Training database. Lists of people who have been trained will be sent to their Division Directors each month for approval.

Engineering Division Safety Coordinator Weyland Wong said that Aundra Richards (DOE) sent a letter to Howard Hatayama (EH&S) asking LBNL to do an extent of condition review of machine guarding. The review is not limited to shops. There is a consultant working on the review. He is looking at whether the guards are in place and also at work practices to ensure the guards are being used.

From August 6 – August 17, Facilities will be offering free pick-up of unwanted, non-hazardous items. The items must weigh ≤ 500 -lb. The items should be labeled “Excess” to ensure that items you want to keep are not accidentally removed. Please submit requests for pick-up through the electronic Work Request system, so the Work Request Center is not overwhelmed by phone calls. In the blank where the form asks for an account number, write “August Clean-Up”. Describe the items to be picked up and their location. If any items have property bar-code stickers on them, please contact Frank Rosado first and ensure that Equipment Move Record forms are completed.

Next Meeting:

September 7, 2:00 PM, Bldg. 71J Conference Room