

March 19, 2010

TO: Locals - DOE  
National Executive  
National and Regional E.O. Representatives

RE: **DOE NJOHSPC Meeting of March 11, 2010**

The DOE National Joint Occupational Health and Safety Policy Committee met on March 11, 2010. Sister Irène Bérubé, National Vice-President, and Sister Manon Desormeaux, Service Officer, attended. Below is a summary of the discussions that took place during this meeting.

**Action Items from the Previous Meeting:**

1. ***Firearms Policy:*** The policy was adopted by the Executive Management Committee on December 6, 2009. Training has started and the policy is progressing well. The working group will now focus on other policies such as accommodation and maintenance.
2. ***Radon Testing:*** Testing has started in areas such as Carleton University, River Road and areas in B.C. The testing takes approximately 3 months to conduct. If there are any issues, the OSH would then be advised. The Department will share the results once they become available.
3. ***Local OHS Committees Compliance Monitoring:*** Completed and will be removed from the action items. A letter was sent out to the Regional Committees.
4. ***Lock-Down Procedures:*** This item is still in progress; however, with the assistance of the Regional Vice-President, Prairie and Northern Region, Brother Todd Panas, the procedure used at his workplace was adopted and the pilot will be initiated at his worksite.

**Enforcement Branch Operations Manual**

The Department provided an overview of how the Operations Manual was produced and why. A two-month consultation has begun and a link is posted on the Intranet. The Department explained that the document is protected “A” and there will be 3 ways to discuss concerns: i.e., through a forum, directly to the manager, or through the OHS Committees.

UEW-STE advised of its concerns that consultation may be difficult as in some regions, the regional union representative is not necessarily a DOE employee. The Department responded that a member of the Committee can request a copy from the Regional Director. UEW-STE asked how long it would take to get a copy and the Department advised that it should be instantaneous.

**OHS Unit Audit:**

The Department shared the results of the Health and Safety Management Framework Audit. Based on the audit, the Committee has reviewed the recommendations and opportunities to strengthen current practices. The Department is moving forward in taking actions to ensure that the workplace is safe. The Department advised that some parts of the report are not clear as to the meaning and understanding of the situation. As such, it is seeking input from the regions to clarify and address any issues such as biological hazards.

**Bottled Water at Environment Canada:**

The Department announced that it is currently reviewing all buildings that have water coolers and bottled water. Currently, the buildings owned by PWGSC are being tested annually to ensure that the water is drinkable and that the plumbing is good. In leased buildings, the water is not being tested annually because it is not a requirement by the building management. The Department will communicate the results of the testing once completed.

UEW-STE asked that this item be placed on the agenda of future meetings so that the Committee could review the outcome of the testing.

**Next meeting:** May 2010.

Should you have any questions or concerns relating to the above, please do not hesitate to communicate with the national office.

Yours fraternally,

William Pynn,  
National President,  
Union of Environment Workers.