

April 7, 2011

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

RE: **DOE NJOHSPC Meeting of March 30, 2011**

The DOE National Joint Occupational Health and Safety Policy Committee met on March 30, 2011. Brother Todd Panas, Regional Vice-President, Prairie and Northern Region, and Sister Manon Desormeaux, Service Officer, attended. Below is a summary of the discussions that took place during this meeting.

Bottled Water

The Department noted that the Draft Bottled Water Policy was provided to the Executive Committee which proposed a name change inasmuch as the Policy was more related to drinking water; i.e., "Policy on Drinking Water". The other change was with respect to employees being able to rent water coolers (water club, etc). As such, Security is now working on updating the Policy and also reviewing the requirements and responsibilities when employees rent a water cooler. The updated Draft Policy will be forwarded to the Committee once the changes are made.

Violence Prevention Directive

Corporate OHS shared the new updates to Environment Canada's Violence Prevention Directive. This Directive is being developed to complement the Harassment Policy and not to replace it. UEW has attached the Power Point shared at the meeting and the Draft Directive for your review. This version of the Directive will be recommended for signature.

Protective Equipment

UEW raised concerns that some workplaces are using baseball caps instead of protective hard hats as an identifier. However, since the floor warden is the last to leave the office, it becomes a health and safety issue to have the protective hat more than an identifier. As such, UEW recommended that a Policy with respect to identifiers be discussed. The Department will look into the issue to see the necessity of the creating a policy.

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.