

October 13, 2011

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

RE: **DOE NJOHSPC Meeting of October 11, 2011**

The DOE National Joint Occupational Health and Safety Policy Committee met on October 11, 2011. Brothers Todd Panas, National President, Mark Gilchrist, 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.

Introduction -- New Co-Chair:

George Enei, the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Corporate Services Branch, will be the new Employer Co-Chair replacing David Grimes. He noted that he was looking forward to working in collaboration with the bargaining agents on OHS issues.

BIXI Bikes

Management tabled the Draft Policy on "*The Use of Bicycles to Conduct Government Business*". The overall goal of the Policy is to reach an agreement on Health and Safety measures that are required in order to reduce the risk of accidents to employees and third parties, and to reduce the Crown's potential liability.

In April 2011, the Deputy Minister met with the CEO of the National Capital Commission (Marie Lemay) to explore the idea of extending BIXI into a program for federal employees. The Deputy Minister agreed to buy BIXI keys for employees and further wanted to explore the idea of buying BIXI stations for some buildings in the National Capital Region.

The Department looked at policies, Task Hazard Analysis (THA), and Safe Work Procedures (OHS) that were already in place and consulted the NCR -- BUG (Bicycle Users Group) -- to get as much information as possible on safety, best routes to work, maintenance, etc.

Following the gathering of information, the Draft Policy on the Use of Bicycles for Government Business was developed in the absence of any clear direction or interpretation emanating from any other government policy. The Policy sets out conditions to use the program and facilitates the use of personally-owned bicycles, government-owned fleet bicycles, and self-serve rental bicycles, such as BIXI, for government business.

UEW questioned whether or not employees were consulted/surveyed at the workplace and asked what season was the best in terms of bicycle safety. The Department responded that the employees were not consulted/surveyed; however, an active campaign will be developed to have employees become engaged in utilizing the bicycles. The Department also noted that the safe bicycle season for BIXI is from May 15 to November 15.

Automatic External Defibrillators (AED)

UEW advised that following the UEW Triennial National Convention held in August 2011, a resolution with respect to AEDs was adopted. In accordance with the resolution adopted, UEW is requesting that the Department revisit the 5-minute respond time which it believes to be too short. UEW further noted that every first aid course now has an AED element attached to it. Further, there are some departmental training programs that include an AED element.

The Bargaining Agents requested a review of the process/directive. Some responders who should fall within the five-minute timeframe are not able to do so. AEDs are now easier to use and will not be used if there is no need for them. The Committee will do more research and continue its discussions on AEDs on an on-going basis.

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

Yours fraternally,

Todd Panas,
National President,
Union of Environment Workers.