

April 3, 2009

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

RE: **DFO National Policy Health and Safety Committee**

The DFO National Policy Health and Safety Committee met on March 5, 2009 with Brother Terry Fanning, RVP, National Capital Region, and Sister Paula Dignan, Service Officer, attending. The following represents a synopsis of the issues raised.

Concerns regarding radiation exposure from Radio Frequency (RF) radiation from radio transmitters and from the Loran C transmitters (Electronic Navigation systems Stations) were raised. The concern is that more testing and education needs to be done to ensure DFO employees are not exposed to dangerous levels of radiation. Safety procedures need to be enforced and monitored. Management committed to reviewing the issue and providing further evaluation results and recommendations. Workplace Health and Safety Committees should be engaged in this issue.

Corporate OSH advised the NPHSC that plans are set to review DFO's Safety Management System to further ensure that the department functions under one National OSH Program and meets the specific requirements of its Sectors and Regions. A working group will be set up to update the Loss Control Manual to include sector or regional specific initiatives that can be implemented nationally. NPHSC members unanimously agreed that environmental safety management should be incorporated into a unified Corporate OSH Program.

UEW advised management that Local and Regional OSH Committees are having difficulty accessing the electronic data base with the National listings of THAs (Task Hazard Analysis). Corporate OSH stated that the Intranet site link was disabled temporarily although Regional Advisors continued to have access through their connection to the Corporate OSH server. Access will be restored to all Regions when the website is repaired.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009. Should you have any questions concerning the above, please do not hesitate to communicate with the national office.

Yours fraternally,

William Pynn,  
National President,  
Union of Environment Workers.