

January 7, 2010

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

RE: **National Policy Health and Safety Committee Meeting - December 11, 2009**

The DFO National Policy Health and Safety Committee met on December 11, 2009. Brother Terry Fanning, Regional Vice-President, National Capital Region, and Sister Paula Dignan, Service Officer, attended. The following represents a synopsis of the discussions that took place.

Corporate OSH has introduced a new format for the outstanding action items that defines the subject and date presented to Committee, provides a background to the issue as well as a chronological listing of the follow-up actions.

Currently, the majority of the Committee's follow-up items are from the CCG. Issues such as shipboard noise, training related to radio frequency exposure and marine safety audits are difficult to monitor as there seems to be a disconnect between what Corporate OSH is responsible for and what Fleet Safety and Security does. Proposed solutions require stricter timelines and more meaningful consultation.

DFO Safety Management System Program Update

The review of the *Health and Safety Manual* is proceeding. Following several meetings of Regional OSH Advisors and the Corporate OSH Officer responsible, duplicate copies of Policies are being deleted and the Health and Safety Manual will be divided into 8 components for ease of reference.

Regarding the *Hazard Prevention Program*, the proposal for Regions to use an electronic reporting system has proven to be problematic with inputting by management being inconsistent. Corporate OSH is suggesting implementing a simpler reporting form.

UEW expressed concern that the electronic reporting system agreed upon is not being used. The Department will move forward with a simpler system to ensure consistency in reporting but agreed to increase its efforts to implement the agreed-upon electronic reporting system when management becomes adjusted to the process of reporting.

Clear timelines for moving ahead on cataloguing the Task Hazard Analysis have been set and the Department is committed to meeting these deadlines.

Corporate OSH will be reporting to the NPHSC with a Regional Synopsis at each meeting which will allow the National Committee to review trends with respect to issues and provide better support to the National Program.

There was a brief discussion concerning the *North American Occupational Health and Safety Week*. The consensus was that the Department needed to do more than simply note a safety week, OSH issues need to be communicated more regularly to all staff. Accident prevention needs to be a daily priority.

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

Yours fraternally,

William Pynn,
National President,
Union of Environment Workers.