

March 17, 2010

TO: Locals – NRCan  
National Executive  
National and Regional E.O. Representatives

RE: **NRCan National Policy Committee on Health and Safety**

The NRCan National Policy Committee on Health & Safety met on February 22, 2010. Brothers Nick Humphreys, Regional Vice-President, BC/Yukon Region, Chuck Davis, Regional Vice-President, Ontario Region, and Sister Manon Desormeaux, Service Officer, attended. Below is a brief summary of discussions that took place.

**Updates:**

**Prevention of Violence in the Workplace Policy and Smoking Directive:** The training has been incorporated into the existing mandatory Harassment Training. The two Directives are ready for signature and will be signed off in a couple of weeks.

**Situation Report H1N1 Virus:** The Department provided a brief overview of the situation. In June 2009, NRCan had a contingency plan in place and intranet page and communications strategy were created. The impact of the H1N1 was less than anticipated and the World Health Organization advised on January 27, 2010 that the 2<sup>nd</sup> wave had passed.

The Department did an analysis on the leave taken (family-related and sick) and advised that even though the numbers had increased, it was not to the point where critical functions were jeopardized.

**New Business:**

**Hazard Prevention Program (HPP):** OHS is currently developing a Directive and an Implementation Plan. The Department advised that all hazards will include ergonomics. A working group was created last Fall to develop the Directive. The Directive should be available for consultation next month.

Health Canada Health Canada does not provide ergonomic assessments. NRCan is looking at the methods for providing both training and ergonomic assessments.

**Next meeting:** May 17, 2010

Should you have any comments or concerns regarding the foregoing, please do not hesitate to communicate with the national office.

Yours fraternally,

William Pynn  
National President  
Union of Environment Workers

March 15, 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.

Twenty-five buildings have not been recently tested. They are currently being tested and testing will continue until the end of March. Once the buildings have been tested and the water deemed to be safe to drink, then no more bottled water will be provided at that particular workplace. There will be some exceptions where bottled water will be provided such as field work, remote locations, and laboratory requirements for distilled water.

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:** February/March 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.