

FESOH Committee Conference Call
MINUTES

Begin: 1:00 PM EST

1. EFCOG Meeting, August 24 -27, 2009, Knoxville, TN; (Dave Smith, FEOSH Program Manager, HS-31)

Bill Roege, Chuck Lewis and Dave Smith (HS-30) will be presenting at the EFCOG Meeting on Monday, August 24th in Knoxville, TN. The topics of discussion will be:

- The HSS Employee Perception Safety Survey that was conducted in October of 2008 and the results. HSS contracted with the National Safety Council (NSC) to deliver and process 600 surveys to all HSS Feds and co-located contractors. The presentation will discuss the survey, results and follow-up activities. A Task Group has been formed to look at the three or four priority issues identified.

HSS was compared with the 411 other companies/agencies that are in NSC's database. Also requested that NSC do a comparison with similar work settings; results of comparison with 34 office type locations with very little difference.

- The re-write of the FEOSH directive. A major issue is the change to the required annual reporting to OSHA. The major offices and sites will have more input to the report. Currently, HSS gathers information from the sites/PSOs/etc. and puts together the report; deficiencies have been identified, goals set with metrics. The future report will be completed by all the larger offices with input from their reporting structure. These reports will be submitted as appendices to the HSS report which will be a synopsis of the Offices reports.

If anyone is planning to attend either the EFCOG Meeting or the ISM Conference, Dave would like to have a meeting of the FESOH representatives with conferencing to those not in attendance. This would be a good way to meet face-to-face.

Bill Schleyer (ALB) pointed out that the ISM Conference would not begin until Tuesday so Monday would be a good time. Jennie Mullins, Augie Maniez, John Cavannagh and Bill Schleyer all agree this is a good idea.

2. Continue the discussion from the last call - "How to" for the major elements of effective occupational safety and health programs as listed in the Safety and Health Management Guidelines (Federal Register 54:3904-3916) Worksite Analysis (Kent Kerr, General Engineer, Kansas City Site Office)

September's call subject from the Safety and Health Management Guidelines (Federal Register 54:3904-3916) major topics was "Management Commitment". This call is "Worksite Analysis". In relation to Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) and contractors, as an industrial organization there are times the Federal employees are exposed to the same hazards as the contractors especially during inspections of the jobsites. The contractors have an excellent training program but the Feds do not get the same type of training. Fed management is aware of this but it also creates 'dings' against themselves for not documenting the training that has been completed. The Feds are not able to retrieve the information on individual safety training and this puts the VPP status in jeopardy.

Bill Schleyer inquired as to how well the Federal employees (management) communicate with site management about going into the contractor work space.

In JHA, the line manager is responsible for employees' safety, required to assure that they have appropriate training. The contractor is experienced with the job site and familiar with the requirements for PPE, etc. and can also provide the appropriate PPE to the Feds for the inspections. The Feds should still not ignore the responsibilities and requirements of entering another's space. Everyone should be clear of the JHA's present at the site.

3. Applying for VPP using your site FEOSH program (Dave Barber)

Dave Barber was not available for the call. This item will be addressed in a future call.

4. A DOE-wide annual or bi-annual safety/health/environment symposium (purpose/agenda/location)(Rick Dubose)

This is an excellent idea, one that did occur regularly in the past. With the budget becoming tighter, this has fallen aside.

Bill Schleyer added that he also thought this is something worth reviving and that aside from the environment piece, the ISM group is bringing the safety and health forward. The ISM groups is looking for health and safety speakers for the ISM conference. Approximately 600 people are expected in Knoxville for the ISM conference, a recognized and funded event. This may be a good forum to benefit from. Eric Allred also believes this is a good idea.

5. Status of DOE Occupational Medical Program (baseline/annual Occ health physicals, Contractor Occ Medical Program - Dr. Mike Ardaiz will be available to contribute to this topic. (Rick Dubose)

Neither Dr. Ardaiz nor Claudia Beach has joined the call. They had an earlier meeting but had hoped to join in time to provide input. We will also add this topic to a later call.

6. Open Issues?

- Kent Kerr – What are the 3 or 4 top issues that came out of the NSC survey?

(Dave Smith) Employee involvement, decision making and policy; communications between employees and management; not enough training available/not enough funds to take advantage of available training and how training is the first thing to get cut when funds are short.

- Dave Smith – There has been an increase in moving vehicle accidents in the DC area; is there any one else addressing a similar issue and would anyone like to discuss in detail off line?

Cherylynne Williams (MA), Eric Allred (NV) [this is a predominant issue], Bill Schleyer are interested.

- Jenny Mullins (Oak Ridge) announced the annual Oak Ridge Safety Fair on May 7th. This is a very positive event; vendors/displays from in-house. Jenny has issued a challenge and 17 groups have accepted the challenge.

(Dave Smith) There are several sites that have very successful safety events and we would like to hear more about them.

- Dennis Curtis (inquired re: tracking of completion of FESOH training? Dave Smith replied with not at this time; it is still an annual requirement under the direction of the Deputy Secretary and can only be changed by the Deputy Secretary.

- Augie Maniez (Savannah River) asked if all sites have AEDs in place. The contractor has done a good jump on getting them placed.

Headquarters has AEDs all over the buildings and agrees that the important piece of this effort is the maintenance of the equipment. Cherylynn Williams added that HQ just replaced all the pads as part of regular maintenance and agrees that the maintenance on equipment is the hardest part along with maintaining the list of qualified staff trained in the use of AEDs.

7. Please send any ideas for topics of discussion to either Dave Smith Dave.Smith@eh.doe.gov, Bert Davis at Bertrand.Davis@hq.doe.gov or Sue Keffer skeffer@PEC1.net.