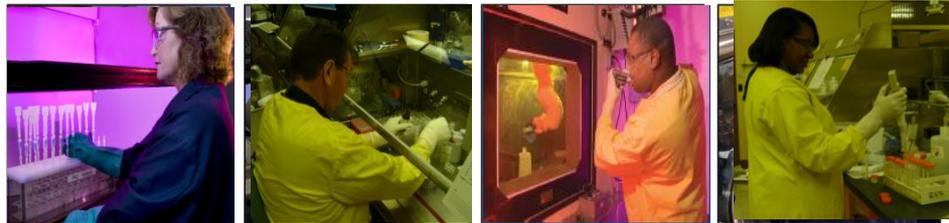


# The BHSC: Looking Back and Looking Ahead

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Outgoing BHSC Chair  
SRNL Office of Analytical Science  
April 4, 2013



**Beryllium Health and Safety Committee, Oak Ridge, TN**

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SRNL-MS-2013-00046

# Disclaimers

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- **In this presentation I am speaking *to* the BHSC, not *for* the BHSC.**
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# Outline

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- **Early history of the BHSC (reprise of a 2003 presentation by Kathy Creek also given in Montreal in 2005)**
- **Key BHSC accomplishments of the last six years**
- **Where do we go from here?**
  - Opportunities we have
  - Challenges we face
  - Cautions we must consider



# Predecessors to the BHSC

- **1981: DoD/DOE Beryllium Supply Program (BSP) established to determine actions for “an assured metal supply”**
- **Later in 1980s: Beryllium Coordinating Committee (BCC) formed to provide technical advice to BSP**
- **1989: National Materials Advisory Council (part of National Research Council) issues report on beryllium metal supply options**
  - **Eight major recommendations, one of which was to expand and improve beryllium monitoring to ensure exposure levels below OSHA mandate**



([www.opinionforum.com](http://www.opinionforum.com))

# Beryllium Monitoring Subcommittee

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- **Formed in 1990 as a subcommittee of the BCC, to improve and coordinate Be monitoring activities in the US and UK**
- **Dick Corle, Rocky Flats, was first (and only) BMS chair**
- **BMS Charter:**
  - **Standardization (environmental and medical surveillance)**
  - **Establish technical base**
  - **Develop monitoring overview**
  - **Advance the monitoring state of the art**
  - **Communications**
- **BMS Working Groups: Occupational Health, Environmental Monitoring, Analytical Round Robin**

## BMS Life Span

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- **1992: DoD source funding for BCC was cut by Congress**
- **1994: DoD withdrew from the BCC**
- **1995: LLNL (J. Johnson et al.) issued report of visits to AWE (Cardiff), Rocky Flats, Y-12, and LLNL**
- **1997: LLNL (M. Herr) issued Beryllium Handbook/Good Practice Guide (not clear to what extent the BMS contributed to this document)**

# From BMS to BHSC

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- **BMS members decided to continue to meet since the forum was invaluable for sharing and improving worker conditions**
- **1995: Dick Corle retired and Rob Hadley (LLNL) was selected as Chair**
- **BMS renamed the BHSC, and was ad hoc in nature**
- **1997: Steve Abeln (LANL) took over as Chair**
- **2003: Kathy Creek (LANL) became the next Chair**
- **BHSC Subcommittees in 2003:**
  - **Research Needs (Mark Hoover, NIOSH, Chair)**
  - **CBD Prevention (George Fulton, LLNL, Chair)**
  - **Technical Stds and Requirements (Mike Garcia, DOE, Chair)**

# BHSC Subcommittees Then and Now

BMS 1990s	BHSC 2003	BHSC 2013
Occupational Health		Medical/Epidemiological (formed 2005)
Environmental Monitoring	Technical Standards and Requirements	Technical Standards, Practices, Measures
Analytical Round Robin		Sampling and Analysis (formed Nov 2003)
	Research Needs	Research Needs
	CBD Prevention	Risk Communication (renamed 2008)
		Meetings/Symposia (one person 2005-2008)
		BHSC Board (formed 2005)

# Key BHSC Accomplishments, 2007-2013

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## Improvements to Formality of Operations

- Charter (originally approved by Board in 2006) updated and approved by membership in 2010
- By-Laws approved in 2009
- Electronic processes for membership applications, meeting registration and white paper voting
- Webinar use began with Spring 2009 meeting

## ASTM Standards in which we participated:

- Updates to D7202 (Be by fluorescence), D7296 (dry wiping)
- Five-year review: D7458 (Be in soil by fluorescence)
- New Be-specific: D7441 (Be separation by ion exchange resin), D7707 (smaller Be wipe, now commercially available)
- Non-Be-specific: D7439 (ICP-MS, now being updated), D7659 (surface sampling guide), Dermal Wipe Sampling (approved, pending publication)

# Key BHSC Accomplishments, 2007-2013 (continued)

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## **Symposia:**

- **Third Symposium in 2008**
- **Fourth Symposium in 2012 – three European speakers**
- **Participated in medical symposia in 2007 and 2011**

## **Publications (direct or indirect participation):**

- **Beryllium in soil (Agrawal et al., ES&T, 2008)**
- **Special issue of JOEH, December 2009, with 11 papers**
- **BHSC participation in the “beryllium book” (Beryllium: Environmental Analysis and Monitoring, RSC Publ., 2009)**
- **BeO Round Robin Study (Oatts et al., JEM, 2012)**
- **White papers approved:**
  - **CBD Prevention: Controlling Exposure in Be Work Environment**
  - **Data Reporting Task Force (two papers on reporting limits, uncensored data)**
  - **Issues Concerning Wall Deposits**
- **White papers in process: Med/Epi (in voting); Risk Communication (training modules), Research Needs**

# Key BHSC Accomplishments, 2007-2013 (continued)

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- **Special Workshops**
  - **Data Reporting Task Force workshop at LLNL,**
  - **Inspection of Hanford CBDPP, Fall 2010 at LLNL**
  - **Joint BHSC/EFCOG/DOE session with Dr. David Michaels, Spring 2009 at Washington, DC**
- **Communications and Information**
  - **Updated public-access web site at LLNL**
  - **Sharepoint (members-only) site hosted by ORISE**
  - **Newsletter inaugurated in 2008 (being revived soon)**
  - **More active role for the Board, including monthly teleconferences**
  - **More frequent/regular subcommittee teleconferences**
- **Membership – was 63 in November 2008, now over 100**
- **Liaisons – ASTM D22.04, AIHA**

# The Future: Opportunities

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- **10 CFR 850 and OSHA PEL**
  - Vigorous internal BHSC discussions
  - Encourage individuals to make formal comments
  - Don't try to represent your company or agency unless you are authorized to do so
- **Real-Time Monitoring**
  - Still a lot of interest but needs R&D funding
- **Research Needs – tap into ORAU and other academia**
- **New Areas of Interest (e.g, consumer goods)**
- **International Outreach**
  - Germany, Quebec
  - We have resisted international membership in BHSC except for U.K. AWE/MOD; issues are legitimate but can we find a way around them?
- **FAQs – get them on line and let the world know**
- **Improve internal communications (newsletter, teleconferences, webinars)**

# The Future: Challenges

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- **Lack of funding**
  - **Novel ways to finance research needs, BHSC operations**
- **Travel challenges**
  - **Consider one virtual meeting and one face-to-face meeting per year**
- **Lack of formal connections to agencies (DOE, DoD, NIOSH)**
- **Knowledge preservation**
- **Areas in which we seem to be stagnant**
  - **Engineering controls**
  - **Technical standards**
- **Issues that won't go away (not an exhaustive list):**
  - **Wall deposits**
  - **Medical ethics**
  - **Efficacy (or lack thereof) of the BeLPT**

# The Future: Cautions

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- **FACA**
- **Keep the core intact**
  - **Core mission – information and education, not advocacy**
  - **Core personnel – don't let new opportunities like consumer goods cause a loss of key people or key focus**
- **Let the voices be heard**
  - **Affected workers (such as Hanford Be Awareness Group)**
  - **Industry**
  - **Government**
  - **International (example: Dr. Nies and Caroline Calvez)**
  - **Academia**
  - **General interest**
- **Keep the collegial spirit**
- **Support my successor, who won't have the amount of time to devote to the BHSC that I have had**

In Closing ...

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**THANK YOU!**