



BHSC NEWS

OSHA - Occupational Exposure To Beryllium

In 1999 and 2001, OSHA was petitioned to issue an emergency temporary standard by the Paper Allied-Industrial, Chemical, and Energy Workers Union, Public Citizen Health Research Group, and others. The Agency denied the petitions but stated its intent to begin data gathering to collect needed information on beryllium's toxicity, risks, and patterns of usage. On November 26, 2002, OSHA published a Request for Information (RFI) (67 FR 70707) to solicit information pertinent to

occupational exposure to beryllium including: Current exposures to beryllium; the relationship between exposure to beryllium and the development of adverse health effects; exposure assessment and monitoring methods; exposure control methods; and medical surveillance. In addition, the Agency conducted field surveys of selected work sites to assess current exposures and control methods being used to reduce employee exposures to beryllium. OSHA convened a Small

Business Advocacy Review Panel under the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act (SBREFA) and completed the SBREFA Report in January 2008. OSHA will initiate peer review of health effects and risk assessment in December 2009.

Chairman's Corner

BY MIKE BRISDON

Chairman, BHSC

I want to personally thank everyone that helped put together the BHSC meeting last month at Savannah River Site. I cannot list everyone by name, but in particular Steve Jahn and Amy Ekechukwu gave hours of time and effort for the meeting. We had a good mixture of long-time members and new folk, which is always a good thing. Also, the use of the web interface for remote participants appears to have gone well, and helped lead to a record amount of remote participation. Special thanks to Sharon Jakubowski of ORISE and David Weitzman of DOE-HQ for their help with the web interface.

I need to ask for understanding from our members regarding the flurry of

emails you have been receiving from Sandia regarding the SharePoint pages on the BHSC web site. As most of you know by now, Sandia has imposed some new rules on users of its collaboration resources, including the portion we use for the SharePoint pages. Annual re-authorization of each member's account is required. Before a user can be re-authorized, the user is required to complete training, which is simply a one-page read-and-acknowledge package that only takes a few minutes. The user also has to select a new password. Then, our webmaster, Melecita Archuleta, can (in most cases) re-authorize the account. Melecita did not come up with these added requirements; they were imposed by Sandia.

Finally, I am pleased to inform the BHSC that Paul Wambach has agreed, pending confirmation by the Board, to serve as interim chairperson of the Medical/Epidemiological Subcommittee, while we continue to seek a more permanent chairperson from the medical or epidemiological professions. Those interested in this subcommittee will be hearing from us in the near future about some initiatives we need this group to pursue.

(The views expressed in the Chairman's Corner are those of the chairman and are not necessarily official positions of the BHSC.)

BERYLLIUM HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

Special points of interest:

- > OSHA to conduct peer review of health effects
- > Spring BHSC presentations posted on Sharepoint
- > Automation of Fluorescence Method of Beryllium Analysis at the Y-12 NSC
- > ABIH CIH Maintenance Points Awarded for BHSC Spring Meeting

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Y-12 National Security Complex: Automation of Fluorescence Method of Beryllium Analysis

BY Tom Datts

Y-12 National Security Complex: Analytical Chemistry Organization

The Y-12 Analytical Chemistry Organization lab is in the process of upgrading their beryllium methodology to a high throughput fluorescence method using the BeRobotics I4 instrumentation (Berylliant, Inc). The lab is going through the installation and procedure modification process at this time and hopes to successfully move to using fluorescence as the primary analysis method for all of Y-12's beryllium program samples. Personnel at Y-12 have been working with automation specialists at Berylliant, Inc. and the Savannah River National Lab for several years to get a fully automated analysis system that would use the fluorescence method developed at Los Alamos National Lab. The new BeRobotics I4 system will automate the analysis process from sample preparation through the final fluorescence spectrometric determination using the approved NIOSH 7704, 9110 and ASTM D 7202, D 7458 analytical methods. The new instrumentation is designed to accommodate analysis of over 240 analytical samples per eight hour shift. The fully automated instrument will address ergonomic issues related to the manual preparation and analysis of beryllium smears and air filters that have plagued the Y-12 lab for years. The instrumentation also will increase sample capacity, decrease analysis turnaround times, and decrease overall analytical costs over the current ICP method.

ABIH Maintenance Points—BHSC Spring Meeting

The ABIH has approved CIH maintenance points for the spring BHSC meeting. The Approval # is 09-1556. We received 1.0 points for each day, 4/1/2009 to 4/2/2009. NOTE: The approval letter states 2008 by mistake. However, since the approval number is an "09" number, it's clear the correct date is 2009. David Weitzman is working to scan the letter and sign-in sheets. The files (pdf) will be provided to Mike Brisson.

Presentations



Posted

Presentations from the spring meeting held at Savannah River Site are now posted on the home page for BHSC members within Sharepoint. Much thanks to our presenters for making these available for our members

Are You Attending AIHce in Toronto?

If you attend any meetings or presentations at AIHce that would be of interest to the BHSC, please drop a note to Jim Jenkins, Newsletter Editor, as soon as you can after the conference. We would like to compile that information to include in a future newsletter. Thanks!

BHSC Meetings: Fall 2009 – Spring 2010

Fall 2009: DOE North Las Vegas complex

Nov 3: Board and JOWOG

Nov 4-5: Main BHSC Meeting

Spring 2010: U. K. Atomic Weapons Establishment Aldermaston, Reading, U.K.

Apr 13-15: Tentative dates

Locations for the Fall 2010 and Spring 2011 meetings are now being solicited.

*Fall meetings are typically in the western U.S.
Spring meetings are typically in the eastern U.S.
(or at AWE).*

If you would be interested in hosting a meeting, please contact Mike Brisson.

Locations typically need to be at a DOE, DoD, or AWE site.

Election of Vice Chairs

Congratulations to David Weitzman on re-election to the office of vice-chair. Congratulations also goes to Geoff Braybrooke on his election to vice-chair. Geoff had completed an initial three-year term as an at-large Board member. The elected term for the office of vice-chair is three years. Also, Tom Ford, a former vice-chair, was elected to take the remainder of Geoff's term as an at-large Board member.

BHSC Board Report

MIKE BRISSON

Chairman, BHSC

The Board met on March 31 at Savannah River Site. At this meeting, the Board finalized a set of by-laws which the BHSC then approved on April 2. Thanks to all the Board members, especially Steve Jahn, who contributed to this effort. The by-laws will further strengthen formality of BHSC operations. The Board will now proceed to updating the Charter to remove items in it that belong in the by-laws.

The Board agreed that Board meetings and conference calls

should be open to interested parties. Accordingly, those who are interested in joining the Board's conference calls are invited to do so. These calls are normally held on the third Wednesday of each month at noon Eastern time. The Board normally has in-person meetings on the day before each BHSC meeting; the next such meeting will be on November 3 in North Las Vegas. Note, please that the by-laws have provisions for specific situations when portions of Board meetings may be closed to visitors, but this is not expected to be normal practice.

BHSC BOARD MEMBERS

Mike Brisson, Chairman
Geoffrey Braybrooke, Vice Chair
David Weitzman, Vice Chair
Steven Jahn, Secretary
Amy Ekechukwu
Tony Quinn
Mike McCawley
John Bishop
Tom Ford

Conference Call Schedule—June (All times Eastern Daylight Time)

06/04/09	Thu	12:00 PM	1:00 PM	10 Be by Fluorescence WG
06/09/09	Tue	12:00 PM	1:00 PM	25 Sampling/Analysis SC
06/10/09	Wed	12:00 PM	1:00 PM	10 Med/Epi SC
06/11/09	Thu	12:00 PM	1:00 PM	10 Risk Communication SC
06/11/09	Thu	3:00 PM	4:00 PM	10 Research Needs SC
06/16/09	Tue	12:00 PM	1:00 PM	15 BeO/Digestion WG
06/16/09	Tue	3:00 PM	4:00 PM	10 Meetings/Symposia SC
06/17/09	Wed	12:00 PM	1:00 PM	15 BHSC Board
06/18/09	Thu	12:00 PM	1:00 PM	10 Accreditation WG
06/23/09	Tue	12:00 PM	1:00 PM	10 Sampling WG

**Conference Call
Number**

803-725-1403

Pass code 2227011



The **Beryllium Health and Safety Committee (BHSC)** is committed to preventing beryllium sensitization and chronic Beryllium Disease (CBD) and other adverse health effects that can be caused by workplace exposure to beryllium.

The Mission of the BHSC will be accomplished by:

- Promoting the safe use of beryllium
- Obtaining a better understanding of exposure risks
- Improving exposure monitoring
- Fostering improved controls
- Accumulating and Disseminating information concerning beryllium process best work practices, as well as, data from the health studies concerning the hazards associated with beryllium
- Training / mentoring of beryllium health professionals
- Identifying and promoting research that has the potential to enhance or improve our worker safety programs

BERYLLIUM HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

Subcommittee Report

BY Tom Datts

Group Lead, Beryllium Oxide/Digestion Working Group
Sampling and Analysis Subcommittee

The Beryllium Oxide/Digestion working group of the Sampling and Analysis subcommittee has recently completed a very successful round robin project. Using air filters spiked with the NIST Standard Reference Material #1877, the BeO/Digestion working group utilized volunteer labs from the BH&SC community to complete the sample methodology study. Twenty seven unique labs from the commercial, military, government, and foreign sectors participated in the round robin project. A total of 36 sets of samples were mailed out to the volunteer labs in March, 2009. Each set consisted of 5 spiked air filters, in duplicate, along with two blanks. The filters were spiked with the NIST SRM 1877 beryllium oxide standard in levels similar to the AIHA Beryllium PAT program. The volunteer labs were asked to perform their normal beryllium air filter analysis methods and report the data back to the working group team. The success of the program is due in main part to the chemists from High Purity Standards in Charleston, SC volunteering their time, materials, and expertise to the preparation, packaging, and delivery of the sample sets to the volunteer labs. Ms. Amy Adams, an active BH&SC member, and her Inorganic Chemistry section volunteered to prepare and distribute the spiked filters to aid the round robin project. Data has been collected from 34 of the participants and a final report is being written. The project will be able to show the BH&SC and beryllium analysis community which analytical methods are effective in the determination of beryllium samples that contain, or may contain, beryllium oxide. Members of the Sampling and Analysis subcommittee are planning on submitting a article in a peer-reviewed journal in addition to presentations at upcoming BH&SC meetings.

Jim Jenkins
BHSC NEWS, Editor

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