

DOCS Health and Safety Meeting
March 15, 2005

NYSDOCS: J. Ludwin and C. Hatch

NYSPEF: J. Gonyo, J. Rosen, M. Rodriguez, J. Connery and M. LaVere

OLD BUSINESS

Item 1. Office Ergonomics

J. Ludwin discussed the current training that exists in DOCS. He stated CSEA had received a grant through DOL for Office Ergonomics Training. He stated training was given quarterly at the Training Academy. J. Rosen stated PEF was looking at expanding the current training, and will be meeting with Kim Ghatt at the Training Academy on April 5, 2005 to plan a train the trainer initiative. Issues including facility needs and implementation of the program will be on the agenda.

Item 2. Emergency Preparedness Training

There has been no action taken on this issue since last meeting. J. Rosen will call B. Olsen, Superintendent of the Training Academy to set-up a meeting and finalize this training program.

Item 3. Floor Wax Stripper

According to J. Ludwin all facilities are in compliance with the floor stripper procedures as far as he is aware. J. Gonyo informed the committee that PEF had received complaints from three facilities, (Ulster, Green and Albion), regarding improper usage of floor stripper. A PESH complaint filed indicated staff was not given proper notification as required by directive, prior to floors being stripped. The problems seem to be most prevalent at times of accreditation.

J. Rosen asked DOCS to intervene with non-compliant facilities when there is evidence of insubordination. J. Ludwin stated non-compliance issues are serious. He stated C. Hatch would be investigating compliance issues with the above facilities. Further, J. Ludwin requested PEF advise his office when compliance issues are filed so he can deal with them.

Item 4. Great Meadow C.F.

PEF is requesting that DOCS incorporate fire drills that include secondary means of egress. DOCS indicated that drills are held at least, once per quarter. All DOCS evacuation routes posted include a primary and secondary means of egress. C. Hatch, will

speak to B. Kennedy about this issue. PEF requested that DOCS work with the Fire and Safety Coordinators to formalize that drills using secondary routes be conducted at least annually.

Item 5. Cape Vincent

C. Hatch has spoken to Plant Superintendent, R. Doell regarding the sea gull issue. R. Doell indicated the facility will be painting roof areas, (i.e. air conditioning units), with a new product that is supposed to discourage gulls from roosting. Additionally, the facility has started installing charcoal filters in the ventilation system. These filters are changed on a three month rotation. The compost pile has been covered by filament type line. The results of the above actions will not be known until spring when the gulls return. The dangers of histoplasmosis and its prevalence in the St. Lawrence Valley area, where the facility is located, were discussed. PEF suggested placing filament type line on the rooftop edges. This will be pursued locally.

NEW BUSINESS

J. Rosen discussed the upcoming Health and Safety Conference May 12-14, 2005. He mentioned the opportunity for the DOCS Health & Safety Committee to meeting at the conference to discuss issues we have addressed throughout the year with the 30 or 40 PEF members who attend.. Thursday, the 12th from 4-5pm prior to the dinner was suggested. Further information is forthcoming.

J. Rosen also announced the upcoming Air Quality Training with OGS, sponsored by PEF/GOER. Three spots are available for DOCS staff to attend. DOCS will make arrangements to send staff. Jim Gonyo and Mary LaVere will attend for PEF.

Lastly, J. Rosen advised DOCS that joint contract grant money is available, entitled the Safety and Health Improvement Project (SHIP) Grants. The grants are for training that would benefit labor and management. The Grant money is only available during this contract period. J. Ludwin will speak with training and facilities planning personnel to assess the needs. There was enthusiasm for pursuing a two day training program on indoor air quality for facilities planning and facilities operations personnel who deal with those type of problems.

Next meeting tentatively scheduled for June 14, 2005

J.Gonyo, PEF

J. Ludwin, DOCS

