

Computing Sciences Safety Committee Meeting Minutes
06/21/06
50B-4205 Conference Room

In attendance: Michael Banda, Parisa Farvid, John Hutchings, Bill Iles, Gary Jung, Betsy MacGowan, Steve Nobles, Linda Suarez, Brian Tierney, Howard Walter

Absent: Scott Mason, Horst Simon, Tammy Welcome

New member

Introduction and welcoming of Brian Tierney.

New business

There is to be a power upgrade at the OSF requiring a 36 hour shutdown. This is in anticipation of the new NE5A computer for which we're still in contract negotiations. It will need lots of power to run and will be installed at the OSF sometime after October of this year. The power upgrade project will start in the next two weeks and will be completed in early October '06.

There is another issue with building leaks at the OSF. The owner of the building is in litigation with the construction company and has decided to fix the problem in early July. The windows will need to be removed and the occupants temporarily relocated.

Because the Lab does not have an inspection group as part of Facilities anymore (because of the RIF's), there will be more work on Bill's plate. The contractors are responsible for their own safety. The subcontractors have already submitted a safety plan for the work to be done. The stop work policy applies to all Lab employees if something unsafe is going on. John is concerned about the coordination effort between the two contractors, etc. Banda stated that John will have to spend much more time at the OSF. Howard said the Matt Hilburn, the superintendent of the project, who has many projects assigned to him, will also need to spend more time at the OSF. He said that he has talked to Bill Wu about making sure Matt only has one project assigned to him next month.

Old business

The handrail issue at building 70 (no handrail along stairs) is being addressed and the project is coming to fruition. The handrails in 50B (missing end caps), leading from the basement up to the first, second, and third floors is to be revisited by John. All OSHA business has been resolved.

Building Emergency Teams (BET)

The updated BET member list was distributed to the group. Howard said that since the Operations staff is at OSF 24/7, they should all be Building Emergency Team members. He suggested that the relevant classes be held at OSF to avoid overtime for the employees. Bill added that a MoveSmart class at OSF would also be very useful. Banda

noticed that there are a lot of areas that don't have enough BET members and that we should try to find as many volunteers as possible to fill those openings. The earthquake drill is tomorrow and we will remind employees of the event and refresh them on the procedures.

Ergonomics/Injuries

Betsy relayed that Jeffrey Chung is no longer at the Lab and that there is a new ergonomics team in place. She assessed the new team to be very "picky" and had mixed thoughts about them. John mentioned that Wallace Haynes, CS's primary laborer, has recently been trained in performing ergonomic evaluations and that he is currently working with Betsy to perform the evaluations for CS staff as well as installing the necessary equipment.

CAP Response

Banda stated the Lab had a peer review of its safety programs and that it didn't come out too well. We need a response for the items per the DOE site office. One of them is roles and responsibilities. The RPM is silent on definitions of certain types of people. For example, PI (principal investigator) is not defined anywhere. There is safety responsibility for all people who "supervise" people in their spaces. For example, JHQ's don't capture student assistants, postdocs, visiting researchers, etc. A postdoc may have safety responsibilities even though he is not in the chain of supervisors. We need to define how to make it work. LANL has a detailed ISM plan that we can study for ideas.

Round table

Banda stated that even though IT is not a part of CS, that until things change, the CS Safety Committee will continue to meet as usual. He also emphasized that no one will be excluded from safety equipment or evaluations.