Memo: March 31, 2014

To: CUNY Environmental Health and Safety Officer Council

From: Howard Apsan

Re: Environmental Health and Safety Officer Council Meeting Minutes

205 East 42nd Street, March 13, 2014

Opening
The Environmental Health and Safety Officer Council meeting was held at 205 East 42nd Street in the 7th Floor Conference Room, on March 13, 2014 from 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM. Patrick Guerdat of the Office of Environmental, Health, Safety and Risk Management recorded the minutes, and the minutes of the previous meeting were approved by acclamation.

Updates
Harlem Building Collapse
Two buildings were destroyed and eight people were killed following an apparent gas explosion on Park Avenue between 116th Street and 117th Street. Sgt. Griselde Camacho (CUNY Public Safety) and Jordy Salas, a John Jay College student, were among the fatalities. A Resident Service Center was set up by the NYC Office of Emergency Management at the Salvation Army Community Center, at 175 East 125th Street as an emergency shelter.

Flu Season
The NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) reported in its March 8 Influenza Surveillance Report that influenza activity in NYC remains elevated, with influenza-like-illness hospital visits being at 2.5% of all weekly visits. The majority of the confirmed cases were identified as influenza A (H1N1). Please visit the City’s flu website, www.nyc.gov/flu, for more information.

MMR
The DOHMH reported 16 cases of measles in Manhattan and the Bronx, including one student at the Borough of Manhattan Community College. Students and faculty that had attended the same classes were informed, and the CUNY Infectious Disease Notification Protocol was followed. There were also numerous cases of mumps reported at Fordham University, and one CCNY student contracted the disease. The EHSRM website was updated to reflect these developments and to provide additional information.

Audits
One of four Spring 2014 audits has been completed. Medgar Evers College was audited February 18-20; Hunter College and Hostos Community College are to follow. An unscheduled audit will also be conducted. Volunteers able to assist in the audits should contact Michael Spath at Michael.Spath@cuny.edu.

Health and Safety Committee
Aldo Orlando, Environmental Health and Safety Officer at Brooklyn College, reported that the Committee is revising the CUNY mold guidelines. He also mentioned that the Committee is preparing a guidance document for lab coats and other standard PPE.
Environmental Compliance Committee
Mohamed Bangura, Environmental Health and Safety Officer at Medgar Evers College, reported that the Committee is developing procedures to improve waste determination practices in labs. He also reminded the Council that contractors should request temporary EPA ID numbers and should not use the campus EPA ID.

Lab Safety Committee
Richard Belgrave, Environmental Health and Safety Officer at The City College of New York, informed the Council that radiation safety training is scheduled to take place at CCNY on March 21. He also discussed the Committee’s plan to organize a symposium to promote safety on campus. Suggestions for speakers or topics should be directed to Richard at richard.belgrave@cuny.edu.

SEHSA Fall Conference
Mel Rodriguez, Environmental Health and Safety Officer at Queensborough Community College, reminded the Council that the Spring 2014 SEHSA conference will take place in Corning, NY April 27-29. To register for the conference and to update your membership, please go to the SEHSA website www.sehsa.org.

Presentation
Michael Sepe, Project Manager, AARCO Environmental Services, gave a presentation titled “Tank Testing: Ensuring Compliance Reliably and Efficiently.” The Council would like to thank Michael for an interesting and informative presentation.

Upcoming Meeting
The next EHSO Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 10, 2014 from 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM at Guttman Community College, 50 West 40th street, Manhattan, Room 401.

James Garin, Director of Engineering, Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations, NYC Department of Environmental Protection, will give a presentation titled “Stormwater Management Strategies.”

Adjournment
The Council meeting was adjourned at 11:00AM.