Opening
The December NYCER meeting was held at New York University, on December 13, 2011. The meeting was hosted by Zack Korenstein, Environmental Specialist, at New York University. Sheryce Woolery of CUNY Environmental, Health, Safety and Risk Management recorded the minutes. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved by acclamation.

College Updates
Christopher Pettinato, EH&S Director, Columbia University, spoke on the lab explosion at Texas Tech University in 2010, and the resulting Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board Investigation. He pointed out that this was the first time the CSB was investigating an academic institution and that they have also released a safety video on the potential hazards associated with research at chemical laboratories in academic institutions. Chris also spoke of his discussion with the CSB chairperson who is willing to come to NYC to give a presentation, potentially a joint presentation with OSHA. Additionally, the CSB video produced in response to the Texas Tech explosion can be viewed online at: http://www.csb.gov/videoroom/detail.aspx?vid=61&F=0&CID=1&pg=1&F_All=y

Michael Ng, EH&S Manager, Long Island University, Brooklyn Campus, informed NYCER members of a complaint filed by an LIU employee, resulting in an investigation by OSHA. Michael noted that following the investigation, the college provided OSHA with records, and they in turn provided records of prior violations resulting in a settlement agreement.

Zack Korenstein, Environmental Specialists, New York University, reported that the NYU School of Dentistry had an OSHA violation due to an employee complaint. He mentioned that the violations were later reduced to “other than serious” (OTS).
Finally, NYCER members were briefed on CUNY’s current negotiations with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding its complaint against Queens College. CUNY’s Office of General Counsel recently presented its case to the EPA and is currently awaiting a response. CUNY campuses are using this process as a learning experience and continue to monitor their campuses to ensure ongoing compliance. Michael Spath, Environmental Compliance Manager, CUNY, advised NYCER members on campuses with multiple facilities to communicate findings that occurred on their campus so as to avoid repeat findings, which may result in a violation.

**Updates**
NYCER members are encouraged to renew their membership with SEHSA before the March 31, 2012 deadline. Some of the advantages of membership include networking opportunities through the SEHSA list serve, gaining insight from other EH&S professionals and discounts on SEHSA conferences.

Additionally, registration is now open for SEHSA’s 2012 Spring Conference, April 1-3, at Hotel Albany, Albany, NY. For additional information please visit, http://www.sehsa.org/upcomingevents.html.

NYCER members were reminded that CUNY maintains a NYCER website, http://www.cuny.edu/nycer. Members were encouraged to visit the site for information and updates, and to post any information to the site that they think their colleagues would find interesting.

**Presentation**
The meeting continued with a presentation by Paul Tranchell, Project Manager, O’Brien and Gere Engineers, on “BSL 2 to BSL 3: One Small Step or One Giant Leap?” Paul highlighted various precautions EH&S personnel should employ in order to recognize, evaluate and control dangerous biological agents within their facilities. We thank Paul for an informative and important presentation.

**Upcoming Meetings**
The upcoming NYCER meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 28, 2012, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the CUNY Graduate Center, room C 198, 365 Fifth Avenue, in Manhattan. Julian Bazel, Counsel, FDNY, and James Hansen, Director of Code Revision, FDNY, will provide a presentation on the “Fire Code Revision Project.”

Upcoming NYCER 2012 meetings are scheduled for: June 12; September 11; and December 11. Those able to host a meeting should contact Sheryce Woolery at (212) 794-5630 or sheryce.woolery@mail.cuny.edu. We encourage suggestions for future topics and guest speakers, and request that you forward them to Sheryce as well.

**Adjournment**
The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm.