

## **10/22/09      Minutes for the SRC Subcommittee on Laser Safety**

Present: Ken Barat (EH&S), Joel Ager (MSD), Jerry Bucher (CSD), Eddie Ciprazo (UCB), Paul Blodgett (EH&S), Mike Carr (BSO), Joe Dionne (PBD), Jim Floyd (SAC), David Littlejohn (EETD), Ben Sandmann (PBD), Junko Yano (PBD)

Agenda:

- (1) SLAC accident review
- (2) JHA process

### **Minutes**

1. Ken Barat was part of the review team that investigated the laser accident at SLAC last month, and he provided an overview of the findings and SLAC's response to the accident. He described the experimental system and the situation that led to the exposure.

It appears there were multiple contributing factors associated with the accident. The individual was inexperienced and had received very cursory on-the-job training for the laser system. He had little or no supervision while he worked in the lab. Protective gear was frequently not worn. Fortunately, the individual's eye was not hit in the macula, so vision impairment should be minor.

SLAC responded quickly to the incident to stop laser operations and initiate an accident review. The management provided a well-defined process for the investigation and restart of laser use. This minimized impact on staff morale. In some cases at laboratories where an accident led to shutdown of operation, staff morale suffered because the investigation process was open-ended and the requirements for restart were poorly defined.

This accident will be used in our lessons learned laser training, and Ken will make his review summary available to SAC and others. He asked for input on what can be done to improve laser safety at LBNL in light of the observations of the SLAC accident. Some possibilities are:

- improve on-the-job training and supervision of new staff
- provide better documentation of the on-the-job training process
- simplify the process for revising and approving AHDs

2. It has been noted that there are some discrepancies in JHA work authorizations where the old laser safety course (280) shows up. EH&S is aware of the problem and it is on the list of items to be fixed and should be remedied in due time.