

9/24/09 Minutes for the SRC Subcommittee on Laser Safety

Present: Ken Barat (EH&S), Joel Ager (MSD), Jerry Bucher (CSD), Eddie Ciprazo (UCB), David Littlejohn (EETD), Paul Blodgett (EH&S), Mike Carr (BSO), Junko Yano (Physical Biosciences), John Byrd (AFRD), Andrew Peterson (LSD)

Agenda:

- (1) Update on Laser Corrective Action Plan items
- (2) Laser safety training - LBNL & Campus
- (3) Incidents at other sites
- (4) Laser lab moves
- (5) BELLA status
- (6) Back-up LSO
- (7) Other

Minutes

Work is in progress on resolving outstanding items on the Laser Corrective Action Plan. EH&S is working to incorporate something like a watermark to indicate that a paper copy is not the official AHD when a laser AHD is printed. This is to clarify that the official version is the on-line version of the AHD.

While not strictly a laser lab issue, work is underway to determine the conditions that can create oxygen deficiency in a room containing either inert compressed gas or liquified gas. Apparently there are no well-documented studies on the gas release quantities needed to create a significant oxygen deficiency.

LBNL laser training is now a web-based class (EHS 302) and a class on lessons learned (EHS 303). However, the content is essentially the same as before and has the same content as the laser training provided on campus. Following discussion of the laser training programs at LBNL and on campus, the committee decided that the training at the two sites will continue to be considered equivalent. Therefore, a laser user trained under one program will be considered to have fulfilled the training at the other institution.

Ken reported on near miss incidents at the Nevada Test Site, LIGO in Louisiana, and at NIST in Maryland. These are reminders for laser users to be diligent about laser controls and beam paths.

Some lasers have recently been moved to new lab space, either within LBNL or to campus. Ken reviewed the process by which the laser database is maintained. Laser users planning to move a laser should contact Ken to insure that the database is updated in a timely fashion.

Ken reports that the BELLA project is moving forward, and DOE has approved CD1 and the environmental assessment. Modification of the site for the facility will be underway soon.

LBNL will host the next Laser Safety Officer Workshop in July 2010. This will be the 50th anniversary of the development of the laser, and Ken is hoping for a good turnout. Ken is also working with CSEE to apply for a grant from SPIE. If received, the grant would be used to promote awareness of the safe use of lasers.

Don Lucas is the back-up LSO when Ken is not on-site. However, the chain of command for laser safety should be clarified so there is someone with LSO responsibilities available.