

Meeting 9/21/05 SRC Subcommittee on Laser Safety

Present: Joel Ager (MSD), Ken Barat (LLNL), Ted de Castro (EHS), Richard Kadel (PHNSD), Larry McLouth (EHS), Robert Schoenlein (MSD), Neil Landau (DOE/BSO), Ed Ciprazo (UCB),

Agenda:

- (1) Update on AHD database (Larry)
- (2) Update on status of laser inventory database (and DOE verification) (Ted, Neil)
- (3) Discussion of laser training requirements for PIs who are not laser users (Ted)
- (4) DOE Laser Safety Expectations and their applicability to campus labs (Gary, Ed, Ted, Neil)

Minutes:

(1) A production version of the AHD database is expected to be released at the end of Sept.

(2) Laser Inventory Database

- inactive AHDs still included, just to track lasers
- if lasers no longer exist on a particular AHD, contact Ted de Castro to delete the laser AHD
- a majority of laser users have responded and updated the inventory, stragglers will be tracked down to insure that the database is updated for the 10/31 DOE verification deadline

(3) PI's should sign up for EH&S 289. However, it was pointed out that the JHQ refers to "direct supervision" of laser users

(4) There was considerable discussion about applying LBNL/DOE laser safety expectations to campus labs (that are not in the official LBNL spaces of Donner and Calvin). The central issue is that DOE holds LBNL responsible for the work safety practices of LBNL personnel – even when they are working off-site. This is usually only a small number of people, except in the case of laser users working on campus.

The previous assessment by the Laser Safety Program Review Panel (R.T. Hitchcock chair, July 2003) following the campus laser accident, concluded that the LBNL and campus safety programs were effectively equivalent. The EH&S MOU between LBNL and UC Berkeley also states that the safety programs are equivalent, although DOE is not a signator of the MOU. There is some question as to whether this is still the case (particularly in light of the recent DOE laser safety expectations), and it seems that LBNL has some responsibility to periodically re-assess this.

It was suggested that that an initial attempt be made to identify the number of LBNL personnel who are working with lasers on campus. Present estimates are very rough, and do not provide a sufficiently accurate scope of the problem.

It was suggested that a memo be drafted to DOE specifically asking about their expectations for laser safety on campus, and to request their acknowledgement of the MOU. This would define a clear boundary for LBNL laser safety responsibilities.

At present, there is an effort to standardize the JHQ for people on campus in order to direct them to the appropriate campus safety courses. The present plans do not include requirements for LBNL people working with lasers on campus to fulfill all the LBNL laser safety requirements (EH&S classes, hands-on training etc.).