

Highlights

Hazards Assessment Subcommittee Teleconference 09-04

Wednesday, August 19, 2009; 2:00 PM EDT/1:00 PM CDT/12:00 PM MST/11:00 AM PDT

Participants:

Denny Armstrong, WSMS	Mister McDonald, NTS
Dorothy Cohen, ORISE	Mike O'Keefe, NTS
Wayne Davis, WSMS	Jim Powers, NA-41
Dave Freshwater, NA-41	Chuck Rives, Pantex
Gerry Gibeault, INL	Ernie Vitaliani, SRS
John Harris, DOE/ORO	Gary Winner, ANL
Steve Homann, LLNL/NARAC	Michele Wolfgram, WSMS Mid-America
Jim Jamison, SAIC	Ken Young, LLNL
Aprill Jivelekas, WSMS Mid-America	
Greg Martin, SAIC	

I. Roll Call

Ken Young conducted a roll call and noted that 18 individuals from 6 DOE/NNSA locations involved with the Hazards Assessment Subcommittee (HASubC) were present.

II. Welcome and introductions

Ken welcomed everyone to the conference call and encouraged each to begin participating in the use of the HASubC SharePoint site. Only three individuals are currently signed up for the site; Ken suggested that one person from each site should sign up by the next conference call. If there are any questions or comments, please send him an email. (Ref: right column at <http://orise.ornl.gov/emi/emisec/hazard-assess/default.htm>).

III. Brief discussion of HF release from Exxon/Mobile

Ken discussed a release of hydrogen fluoride (HF) from a refinery in Joliet, IL where two people were injured. He pointed out that the Chemical Safety Board (CSB) is concerned because of two similar releases—which may indicate a trend.

Discussing similar chemical safety concerns, John Harris shared information about the nitric acid spill at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) on Tuesday, August 18. The spill occurred as the result of an error during re-fill of a tank at a waste management facility. A total of 5–8 employees were transported to medical, but there were no injuries. The event was categorized as an Operational Emergency (OE) not further classified and was considered a relatively minor event (EPA stated that there would be no impacts outside of the facility for a spill of this magnitude). Ken reinforced that SharePoint can be used to share this type of information in a timely manner.

Also, Ernie Vitaliani shared information about the nitric acid event at Savannah River Site (SRS) on August 18. Ernie had limited information, but said that the event occurred during a Decontamination and Decommissioning (D&D) activity and that everyone is okay. Three people were hospitalized but were released and six others reported to site medical, three of which were released immediately.

IV. Hotspot 2.07 entry into DOE Central Registry

Steve Homann briefly discussed the Hotspot dispersion model and his work on getting Hotspot 2.07 into the DOE Central Registry—"the toolbox." Steve is always looking for feedback from users about the model and stated that one thing being worked is a batch mode which would allow the user to run multiple events at one time in the background. Regarding the new 95th percentile meteorology capabilities of Hotspot, Steve asked if there were any other file formats for the weather data that users needed added to the code. Currently the file format is the same as the MACCS2 code.

V. Old Business

AI 08-04 Hazards Assessment Subcommittee Website: Gerry Gibeault indicated that he is working offline on updating the website; so there is no need to carry this action item. He asked if there is a need to maintain links to various references on the website. Chuck Rives suggested that the statistics for the website be accessed to determine if the links are being used and whether they need to remain on the site. Dorothy Cohen will provide those site statistics. **ITEM CLOSED**

AI 09-01 Dilute gas mixtures screening effects: Wayne Davis joined the call late due to prior commitments, but indicated that he is working on submitting a Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) regarding this issue. **CONTINUING ACTIVITY**

AI 09-02 Water treatment chemicals: Gerry Gibeault is talking with stakeholders on this issue. First responders (e.g., fire department, hazardous materials responders) indicate that they still want emergency response support if a release of these types of chemicals does occur. Gerry hopes to resolve this issue in the next couple of months, but he needs to get agreement before he can finalize the paper. He is willing to share the resulting paper. He mentioned that he might emphasize with the responders that they can still receive support even if the chemicals are not analyzed in the Emergency Planning Hazards Assessment (EPHA) and the event is not classifiable. John Harris stated that classification of events applies only to airborne releases and Gerry emphasized that the purpose of the paper is to state that there would not be a significant airborne release from these chemicals. **CONTINUING ACTIVITY**

VI. New Business

DOT Shipping Compliance (from previous conference call): Conversation from the previous conference call continued regarding shipments of hazardous materials that are temporarily onsite. John Harris indicated that a process (like Unreviewed Safety Question [USQ]) should be used for evaluating changes to a facility, and if the material is present for more than a couple of days, an analysis should be completed for that material. Gerry Gibeault stated that he believed most of these issues could be covered by using the Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG) and further opined that the ERG would be appropriate for chemicals, but possibly not for radiological material. John Harris agreed that for radiological materials the specific materials in the container may not necessarily be accounted for in the ERG. Ken Young suggested that the material should be covered in an EPHA for the facility shipping and/or receiving the materials. John Harris stated that the concern is regarding temporary materials and that there is no specific time limit given for what is considered *temporary*. Jim Jamison pointed out that the guidance states that if the shipment meets the Department of Transportation (DOT) requirements that no EPHA is needed and the ERG should be used. Dave Freshwater added that the DOE Order 151.1C states that an update of the Hazards Survey/EPHA is required when

there is a *significant change*, which is defined as *those situations that would result in USQ*; the order does not state that a USQ would need to be performed. He also reminded the group that there is an exclusion for Type B-compliant containers. The final suggestion was that if there are continuing questions regarding this issue, they should be submitted to NA-41 as FAQ.

ACTIVITY CLOSED

There were no other new business items.

VII. Round Robin

LLNL: Ken Young indicated that Michele Wolfgram was assisting LLNL staff with developing guidance for writing Emergency Action Levels (EALs).

INL: Gerry Gibeault stated that there was nothing new to report, but that D&D and building new laboratories is continuing

SRS: Wayne Davis indicated that SRS is currently undergoing review by Office of Emergency Management Oversight, HS-63.

VIII. Adjournment

The teleconference was adjourned at **2:45 PM EDT**. Ken thanked everyone for participating. The next HASubC teleconference is scheduled for **Wednesday October 21, 2009, at 2:00 PM EDT**.

IX. HASubC Action Item Status

One AI was closed; and none was opened. The total number of open AIs is two. The color-coding system used in the teleconference highlights is as follows:

- Existing AIs that are not closed are green.
- New AIs are yellow.
- AIs to be closed are blue.