

EENS ESH Newsletter

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Environmental Management System (EMS) Internal Audit Results

Sometimes after an audit, we forget to share the final outcome to let everyone know how we stand. Many thanks to all the interviewees who shared their time and knowledge with the Auditor. Everyone was very clear and concise with their responses and demonstrated a good working knowledge of our EMS program. Several issues came to light that we will be focusing on in the near future. Document Control of the Experimental Safety Reviews (ESRs) proved to be something of a challenge. The Auditor found some versions in

the laboratory pocket holders had expired; also some incorrect/confusing cover pages were identified. Research Operations will be working on smoothing out the process of keeping the ESRs current. Another issue the Auditor was concerned about (lab-wide) was sample management. Old containers of samples and chemicals (> 10 years old) were identified in several laboratories and cabinets. Please ensure that your chemicals and samples are properly labeled (see next section). On the positive

side some noteworthy practices were identified for:

- 1) EENS development and use of Nano Self – Assessments.
- 2) EENS integration of EMS & OHSAS documents.
- 3) EENS Department Chairs attend ESR reviews.
- 4) Lab –wide Small Science has scientific and staff participation in Pollution Prevention and Safety Solutions programs.

Sample Management

Maintaining a sample inventory is the simplest way to avoid legacy waste. Many times samples are left with only a sample code. A **best practice** is to have all samples clearly labeled with a code

and to have that sample code in an inventory log (in the laboratory for easy access). The inventory log should contain all pertinent information such as ownership, contents, associated hazard and

age of samples.



Bldg. 815 D-Wing Renovations

As part of the DOE Multi-Lab renovation and EENS long-term efforts to consolidate into better facilities, the D-wing in Building 815 is scheduled for complete remodeling and improvement. The architects have been working on the renovation plan and been in the building for various surveys. Current programmatic activities will have to be relocated to several different locations. The actual start date for this project is sometime in summer of 2009. It may be a good

time to think about what can be sent to surplus (or disposed of) prior to the move. For answers to questions on how to manage old equipment please contact Lou Gerlach our Resource Coordinator. It will also be a great time to identify those unwanted and unnecessary chemicals for proper disposal. Please contact Research Operations for assistance with this effort. Research Operations has made suggestions for relocation space. Please contact Rob Doty our Facility Man-

ager if you have any questions or comments concerning the inevitable big move.....



Pollution Prevention (P2) Proposals

The Pollution Prevention Program (P2) is currently seeking ideas and proposals from all BNL staff that will reduce waste, improve recycling, conserve resources and save money. If any EENS staff members have suggestions please contact Joy Adams (ECR), or your EMS Reps Pat Carr or Linda Bowerman.

There is currently \$20,000 earmarked for P2 funding. Past winning proposals can be found at the following web site:

<http://dev4.itd.bnl.gov/esd/pollutionpreve/internal/P2Proposals.htm>

One possibility is a bar-coding system for the Directorate that can be loaned to PI's for maintaining their sample inventories. We welcome all comments and suggestions so put on your thinking caps.

Reminder - Chemicals cannot be purchased via credit cards due to the special handling requirements (CMS inventory) and work planning.

Aerosol Can Disposal



Recently some concerns regarding the proper disposal of aerosol cans came to light. Aerosol cans that are **partially full** or **full** need to be labeled as hazardous waste and placed in the 90 Day Area with compatible wastes. Empty cans should be collected by the user and when ready for disposal call our

Environmental Compliance Rep (ECR) Joy Adams (x7898). For pick-up or questions concerning the disposal of aerosol cans please contact Joy or Research Operations (x2746).