

In attendance:

[Tim Dorch \(TD\)](#)

[Jean Durosko \(JD\)](#)

[Tracy Gill \(TG\)](#)

[Bernie Gottholm \(BG\)](#)

[Janet Reise \(JR\)](#)

[John Wickham \(JW\)](#)

NCCOS SILVER SPRING METRO CENTER EMS
TEAM FY 2009 3RD-QUARTERLY MEETING,
APRIL 13, 2009, 1:00 PM-2:30 PM
SSMC4-8348

Agenda

- √ NCCOS Team Workshop Update
 - √ Earth Day Activities
 - √ Open Agenda & Miscellaneous Items
- √ = covered; ⊗ = not covered

Agenda item 1, The NCCOS Team Workshop Update

JD talked about the recent NCCOS EMS Team Workshop conference call on March 19. The three-day annual EMS workshop was held this year from March 17-19 at CCFHR, (Beaufort, NC) for the purpose of reviewing the NCCOC EMS Team Charter, discussing the planned FY 09 internal audits, updating the individual EMS Environmental Management Programs (EMPs), etc. Highlights included discussion of the 2008 External Audit (done every 3 years), the planned 2009 Internal Audits (done yearly at least at one facility - cannot travel to each NCCOS Facility due to budget constraints), policy updates (e.g., EMS Charter, metrics). Also mentioned were local EMS Facility Team memberships and implementing 3-year rotations. This will allow for fresh ideas and create more awareness of EMS. JW will send out an e-mail to request new members to the SSMC Local facility Team. TG questioned how useful SSMC team membership is now when most of the easy EMS ideas have been implemented and the NOAA Green Team is filling a previously missing niche by promoting EMS ideas of importance to the SSMC facility. BG has responded to the 2008 external audit for corrective actions for the SSMC Facility (i.e., CSCOR, CCMA and NCCOS Headquarters). Local Facility Teams may assist in 2009 internal audits to save money.

Agenda item 2, Earth Day Activities

No Center-wide organized activity is planned for Earth Day (April 22). Individual initiative and discretion are encouraged. Some Earth Day ideas include:

- clean out and recycle items from their cubicles
- forgo buying drinks and foods in plastic/metal containers
- turn off overhead lights (where feasible) utilizing cubicle lights for a day
- utilize recycled paper in new ways such as creating reusable note pads from copy paper for their and office-wide use (idea suggested by JR).
- take approved telework on Earth Day
- get outside and take a lunch-time walk through the surrounding neighborhoods.
- participate in a pre-planned DOC/NOAA Earth Day activity (e.g., the DOC "Green Fair" and the 2009 DOC Environmental Stewardship Awards ceremony). TD may design and send out a pdf list of suggested activities NCCOS-wide prior to April 22.

Other topics that came up regarding Earth Day include:

- On Earth Day Gary and Bernie are going to HCHB to receive the 2009 DOC Environmental Steward Award that NCCOS was awarded.

- NCCOS has also won the NOS “Green Steward Award” and is up for the White House “Closing the Circle Award” for military and civilian personnel, There is one award each for several different contest categories.
 - Earlier in the year Vicki Schwantes won an award for her ideas for the NOS ‘Gets Greener” contest and Mark Mohs submitted ideas for the “Electronic Stewardship Award.”
- Finally, Earth Day is the day before “NOAA Kids Day” which complicates matters related to organizing events.

Agenda item 3, Open Agenda/Miscellaneous Items

There was discussion of what the NOAA Green Team is doing. There is an opinion that this relatively new group has overtaken and addressed many of the same issues of the SSMC Local EMS Facility Team (e.g., recycling, energy and water conservation, etc.). The NOAA Green Team website can be accessed from the NOAA Safety and Environmental Compliance Office (SECO) by going to <http://www.seco.noaa.gov/> and the “Green Team” link (http://www.seco.noaa.gov/ECS_Teams/green_team/green_team_index.html). The Green Team meets once per month. One item they are considering implementing (with Foulger-Pratt) is battery recycling. Some general SSMC facility EMS-related issues that came up include:

- There is 1 refrigerator per floor and services over 100 people – this is too small, and unsanitary (the 8th floor is the only one with two refrigerators);
- The automated toilets often flush inadvertently – might need to notify to building management about this;
- Regarding recycling NOS does not get full credit for the actual amount of recycling the way field offices can as it is calculated for the entire building (i.e., SSMC4 includes FAA and OFA in addition to NOS);
- If you have a good EMS idea, just present it and see how it works out. Best Practice suggestions are encouraged.
- JW mentioned using waterless toilets and urinals. Expense is an issue.

JD provided an outline of Will Freeman’s (of NOAA SECO) recent presentation on “The Greening of NOAA.” JW happened to hear this presentation at a NOAA National Women’s History Month talk given by Mr. Freeman on March 25. Other topics of interest mentioned are that NCCOS EMS accomplishments are highlighted in the Weekly Reports and are posted on the EMS Home Page (left side). In addition, the NOAA Chief Administrative Officer is providing \$10K for NCCOS Energy Audits (i.e., assessments) at NOAA-owned buildings (but not non-NOAA owned buildings such as SSMC2-4). There is talk at the DOC level in making EMS a DOC wide requirement (not sure if this will affect NCCOS’ version of EMS). BG is a “consultant” for this.