

AOEC E-mail News January 2009

In keeping with the promise in the December e-mail newsletter, the goal this year is to have an informal news update from AOEC at least once a month. It is an easier goal to keep than it might be since quite obviously this is going to be an interesting year. Whether this is good interesting or bad interesting no one quite knows as yet.

Government/Agency Issues

On Tuesday we officially get a new President and administration. Ostensibly, under our system of government, the current administration is supposed to remain in place and fully functioning until that time. In reality, most senior staff political appointee types have already checked out physically and/or mentally. This leaves the career people waiting for new marching orders. We also have the budget problem. It's January 16 and the federal government still doesn't have a final budget for FY09. The entire government is operating on a continuing resolution which may or may not be the final budget for FY09.

We should have a new HHS secretary, Tom Daschle, in place soon and we should have a new second in command, William Corr, at the same time. Since Sec. Designate Daschle will be focusing his attention on health care reform, the word on the street is that Mr. Corr will be the one really in charge of the nuts and bolts of HHS. The Daschle nomination has been delayed by the Senate Finance committee. It's highly doubtful that he will not be confirmed but it probably won't happen before the inauguration.

However, while these positions at HHS are set, there is now the vacancy at CDC. I'm told that one of first actions of the new HHS leadership will be appointing a replacement for Acting Director Gimson. While they could name a new permanent CDC Director immediately, my sources say it will more likely be another Acting Director and probably from within the ranks of CDC physicians. Given the strength of feelings regarding the changes in CDC under Dr. Gerberding, a cooling off period might be just what the agency needs.

On the Labor side Hilda Solis has been confirmed. Still no final word on a new head of OSHA but I expect that to be announced within the next two to three weeks. Peg Seminario of the AFL-CIO and John Howard, former NIOSH Director are still the lead candidates according to all my sources.

AOEC Web Updates

The current AOEC Database Exposure Codes and Revised Protocol: Criteria for Designating Substances as Occupational Asthmagens on the AOEC List of Exposure Codes are now on the AOEC web site at <http://www.aoec.org/tools.htm>
Also, the most recent update of the Occupational Medicine Residency programs can be found at <http://www.aoec.org/training.htm>

We are still working on getting a password protected section in which to list the individual members and their interests. It's one of those seemingly simple updates that has not been as simple as we thought.

CDC Budget Issues

While with the current economic crisis, no one expects increases in funding for public health programs, the problem I mentioned in the 12/12/09 AOEC E-mail News regarding the TAP (or tax if you will) that is imposed for the CDC Strategic Business Unit is now in play. Since this TAP was imposed by the Office of the Director, no one is quite sure what is going to happen now that Dr. Gerberding is gone. If all or even a significant part of the TAP increase over the past several years could be rescinded it could be a major windfall for the respective agencies.

Jobs

Texas

Privately owned and established Occupational Health Care Clinic in Baytown Texas is interviewing for a Physician to become involved in our growing practice. Background or training in Industrial Medicine with knowledge of OSHA regulations and compliance is desirable.

Position requires an energetic, goal oriented personality to work with existing staff and patients while working towards expansion and eventual ownership of a new clinic. Our facility offers a full range of Occupational and Industrial Medical Care as well as Minor Medical Emergency treatment. Private practice primary care is also available at the clinic. Our current office hours are Monday thru Friday. 8:00 a.m. to 5:00p.m.

Services include: Pre-employment and DOT Physicals, Full range toxicology screening, Minor Medical emergency care, Fit testing and pulmonary function testing, Burn Care, Eye injury Care, Minor medical procedures, Primary Care

Send Resume/CV to: Shane Hunter, P.O. Box 926, Highlands, Texas

hnrshnr@gmail.com 281-744-6805

California

California Prison Health Care Services: the physician will serve as the section chief of the Employee Public Health Section of the Public Health Unit. This new section will be responsible for designing and implementing programs to control disease transmission among employees. The physician will report to the Chief Medical Officer, Public Health Unit (Janet Mohle-Boetani, MD, MPH).

This job is an opportunity to develop new occupational and employee health programs for the California Prison Health Care system. You can learn more about the position by contacting:

Janet Mohle-Boetani, MD, MPH

Chief Medical Officer, Public Health Unit California Prison Health Care Services

501 J Street, Suite 220-08

Mail Address:

P. O. Box 4038, Suite 220-08

Sacramento, CA 95812-4038

email: Janet.Mohle-Boetani@cdcr.ca.gov

You can also go to: http://jobs.spb.ca.gov/wvpos/more_info.cfm?recno=383992 for the salary range and application information.

Upcoming Events/Classes/Programs

February 17-18, 2009 Healthy Aging for Workers: Anticipating the Occupational Safety and Health Needs of an Increasingly Aging Workforce. Silver Spring, MD. Organized by AOEC and SOEH. <http://www.soeh.org/meeting/meeting.html> 202-347-4976

Deep South Center for Occupational Health and Safety CE:
205-934-7178 FAX 205-975-7179 www.uab.edu/dsc

March 4 • Occupational Noise

Birmingham, Alabama • Hampton Inn Colonnade

March 5 • Hazard Awareness Workshop for the Municipal Workforce

Birmingham, Alabama • Hampton Inn Colonnade

March 6 • OSHA Recordkeeping

Birmingham, Alabama • Hampton Inn Colonnade

March 10-11 • Air Sampling for Toxic Substances

Birmingham, Alabama • UAB Campus

March 12-13 • 2nd Annual NIOSH ERC Regional Seminar & Symposium

Pensacola Beach, Florida • Hampton Inn

March 30-31 • Spirometry Workshop

Birmingham, Alabama • Hampton Inn Colonnade

Dues Renewal for AOEC Membership

Dues notices for AOEC membership will be sent out next week. If anyone would prefer a dues notice via e-mail to help save a tree, please let me know. I still believe membership in AOEC is one of the best bargains in occupational and environmental health.

AOEC Closed January 19-20, 2009

Finally, just as a point of information, the AOEC offices will be closed on both the 19th and 20th. We'd normally be closed for the Martin Luther King Holiday on Monday but we'll also close Tuesday due to both the inaugural festivities and where we are located in DC. We're not close enough to see the parade from our window but we would be able to see the security barriers.

Kathy