

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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ADVISORY BOARD ON TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND WORKER
HEALTH

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SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE SITE EXPOSURE MATRICES (AREA #1)

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SUMMARY MINUTES

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TUESDAY,
JANUARY 16, 2018

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The Subcommittee met telephonically at 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Laura S. Welch, Chair, presiding.

MEMBERS

SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY:

JOHN M. DEMENT
MARK GRIFFON

MEDICAL COMMUNITY:

LAURA S. WELCH, Chair

CLAIMANT COMMUNITY:

KIRK D. DOMINA
DURONDA M. POPE
GARRY M. WHITLEY

OTHER ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

FAYE VLIEGER

DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICIAL:

CARRIE RHOADS

Call to order and introductions:

Ms. Rhoads called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. Eastern Time. The above-listed board members were in attendance. Chair Welch said that the subcommittee would be reviewing responses to comments that the board received from OWCP. One response was to the recommended revisions of the OHQ and the other is the COPD presumption.

Recommendation #4:

Revisions of the Occupational History Questionnaire (OHQ)

Member Griffon kicked-off the discussion by asking about memory triggers. Member Dement said that there is a respectable list of tasks for construction workers but not for production workers. The issue with memory triggers is that, as with the BTMed list, if the tasks are listed the workers are more likely to remember doing them than if they are simply given a blank sheet and asked to list their tasks. In the first round of recommendations, the subcommittee didn't really describe memory triggers, but it did discuss how a worker may not know the names of all the materials he used or the tasks he performed. But the task alone can give the industrial hygienist a sense of what exposures occurred and then additional questions need to be asked.

Member Griffon noted that there have been a number of campaigns at the sites over the years and if a list of these campaigns were available to workers, it may trigger memories of what substances they were exposed to during that campaign. It would be helpful to have a list of tasks along with a list of campaigns.

Member Griffon said that NIOSH has a lot of information in its site profile documents that could also be helpful as background information. Chair Welch said that DOL added a directory to the linked work processes out of HazMap. Member Griffon said that in addition to tasks, projects should be added to the OHQ.

Member Vlieger added that she would like to see an interactive form that looks at the databases because the resource center workers are only as good as their memories.

Recommendation #3:

Causal Link Between COPD and VGDF (vapors, gases, dust, and fumes)

Chair Welch said that she took the old recommendations on COPD and altered them slightly in trying to be responsive to OWCP's comments. The response she put together was that the enabling language doesn't need to include specifics and that there are many examples of where OWCP has been using complex mixtures and accepting claims from those.

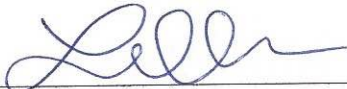
The recommendation that the board came up with is that, "we presume if people were in these job titles, they would have had an exposure." Or, if they weren't in a particular job title but had exposure in a certain category or if the SEM links to their particular job title.

The subcommittee will continue to emphasize the concept that VGDF is an important causative agent for COPD. The members of the subcommittee were strongly supportive of keeping the concept of VGDF given the literature linking COPD to VGDF exposure. The OHQ needs to incorporate questions regarding exposure to VGDF.

Chair Welch said that she was taking notes and would distribute the notes with edits before the board meeting on January 30.

The subcommittee meeting was adjourned at 1:53 p.m.

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes are an accurate summary of the meeting. Submitted by:



Laura Welch, MD

2/14/2018
Date

Chair, Subcommittee on The Site Exposure Matrices (Area #1)