

**Minutes of Safe Practices Subcommittee of the Committee on Chemical Safety
7pm, March 27, 2004, Disneyland Hotel, Anaheim**

Attending: Paul Schickedantz, Lester Bynum, Michael Cournoyer, Bob Alaimo, Eileen Segal, Russell Phifer (Chair), Barbara Foster, Harry Elston, Larry Funke (staff liaison), Ken Fivizzani (Committee Chair) and Hank Ramsey.

1. Mercury Spills Booklet – the booklet is up on the committee’s website as a draft document (we are requesting comments from readers). There have been several comments which will lead to minor changes once editing is complete.
2. Microwave safety – our comments were incorporated into the Spanish version of the Green Chemistry booklet, but minimal changes were made to the existing copies of the English version. The changes reportedly include strategically placed stickers addressing microwave safety. Michael and Barbara’s technical paper has been submitted to the *Journal of Chemical Education* and is undergoing review.

New business:

ACS Strategic Plan – the subcommittee has been charged with identifying ways to work within the 2004-2006 Strategic Plan. Unfortunately, chemical safety is not mentioned in the document. There was much discussion on this topic; we struggled with finding ways to work within this plan in advancing chemical safety. We will encourage our Committee Chair to address this issue in a letter to Chuck Casey, Madeleine Jacobs and Jim Burke. We also reviewed the Public Policy Priorities for 2003-2004, which does address environmental health and safety challenges. We recommend that these issues also be included in the next public policy priority statement, and that references to K-12 science education encourage the consideration of safety and environmental stewardship.

Plant safety issues – we have been asked to consider ways to address chemical safety & security vulnerability issues at chemical plants. Everyone agreed this is a tricky situation – some information on plant preparedness could potentially be used by terrorists. The discussion focused on the differences between vulnerability as required by process safety regulations and terrorism; process safety assumes no one will deliberately “attack” a chemical storage area, whereas terrorists might try to identify ways to do just that. A process safety review should include assessment of how to deal with purposeful breaches in safety and security and identifying facility-specific responses. This information should be excluded from any community right to know provisions. However, there are no apparent security concerns related to preparing response activities after an attack. We will consider these issues and decide how to address them at our meeting in Philadelphia.

Clarification of personal protection requirements – Michael is working on fine-tuning selection of appropriate eye and skin protection for various type exposures.

AIChE – the subcommittee considered ways that ACS & CCS might work with AIChE.

According to Bob Alaimo, AIChE has approximately 45,000 members, 8000 of whom are also ACS members. AIChE has significantly reduced their debt by cutting staff down significantly. The subcommittee encourages a continued dialogue and enhanced informal relations, and is prepared to work within whatever framework is developed by the ACS Council.

Nanomaterial safety – all members of the subcommittee will research hazards associated with nanotechnology, and will report on this topic at the Philadelphia meeting. We will decide there how this issue may be pursued.

The meeting adjourned at 8:12PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Russell Phifer, Subcommittee Chair