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MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

FROM: CHARLES B. LEWIS, III
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OFFICE OF HEALTH, SAFETY AND SECURITY

071179

SUBJECT: Electrical Safety Awareness Tools and Training Modules

Electrical safety awareness and improvement initiatives continue to be a priority focus area both for the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Office of Health, Safety and Security (HSS). Over the past year, DOE has worked with the Energy Facility Contractors Group (EFCOG) to support development and implementation of the seven project areas identified in the Joint DOE/EFCOG Electrical Safety Improvement Project (ESIP). The completion of this project in December 2006 resulted in the establishment of a permanent Electrical Safety Task Group (ESTG) within the EFCOG dedicated to continuing these electrical safety improvement efforts. The project also resulted in the development of some good practices, tools, guidance and training modules dedicated to improving electrical safety performance throughout the DOE Complex.

HSS maintains a website (<http://www.hss.energy.gov/CSA/analysis/electrical.html>) that provides relevant operating experience related to Electrical Safety information. This website also includes links to the DOE/EFCOG ESIP on the EFCOG website (www.efcog.org/wg/ism_estg/index.htm) which has recently been updated with many of the tools. HSS is continuing to monitor electrical safety related operating experience to assess the effectiveness of the tools and training developed in reducing the severity of electrical occurrences. There are two specific products of the ESIP that we encourage you to become familiar with: the Electrical Severity Measurement Tool and the training modules on electrical safety developed for non-electrical workers

The Electrical Severity Measurement Tool is intended to assist organizations in determining and classifying Occurrence Reporting and Processing System (ORPS) reportability. This tool is available on the HSS Electrical Safety website which provides a direct link to the Electrical Severity Measurement Tool. This tool was developed to determine the severity of an electrical energy event based on an evaluation of a series of electrical factors. The primary factors include: electrical hazard, environment, shock proximity, arc flash proximity, thermal proximity and any resulting injury(s) to affected personnel. HSS is considering formally incorporating the use of this tool into specific ORPS criteria for Electrical Hazardous Energy Control.



The ESIP training modules on Electrical Safety for Non-Electrical Workers were developed to address specific problems identified from the review of DOE operating experience. The modules provide a basic understanding of electrical safety hazards and are intended to supplement existing training programs to further influence safe behaviors. The National Training Center is considering incorporating the content of these modules into DOE-wide training. These modules were based on best practices throughout the Complex and over the next year the Electrical Safety Task Group will maintain and augment them with additional ones targeted at other types of electrical hazards.

We recommend and urge you to review the information available through the HSS Electrical Safety website, and to become familiar with the specific ESIP tools and training modules that have been provided to date. You should consider how they can be used to enhance the electrical safety program at your site. For example, one site contractor has used these training modules as part of an annual Electrical Safety Awareness Week as a means to heightening awareness of electrical hazards to all site personnel. Each employee received a briefing on general electrical safety hazards and then performed walk-downs to identify hazards in their own work spaces. We would encourage all program offices to consider a similar initiative at their sites this year to further heighten awareness of electrical safety. The General Electrical Safety Awareness module on the EFCOG web site contains a guide to facilitate an "all-employee" type electrical awareness briefing and discussion.

If you have further questions about this letter, please call Raymond Blowitski of my staff at (301) 903-9878. Questions about the new EFCOG Electrical Safety Task Group or the referenced training modules should be referred to Bobby Gray, ESTG Chair, at (509) 373-7221 or Jackie McAlhaney, ESTG Safety Training Team Lead, at (803) 208-3389.

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