



# AMERICAN INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE ASSOCIATION



## Pittsburgh Local Section Newsletter November 2014

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### Next Local Section Meeting:

Date: Thursday, December 4, 2014

Time: 11:30 to -1:30 (or 2)

Location: [DeBlasio's \(Mt. Lebanon\)](#)



### Register Online at:

<http://www.pittsburghaiha.org/> - go to the [next meeting page](#).

The Executive Committee will hold the annual **Winter Business Meeting** to discuss the final event program for 2015. Other topics include Secretary's and Treasurer's reports, and nominations for the election in February. All are welcome to attend!

### Meeting Review—Facility Tour NIOSH/NPPTL Laboratory

*Submitted by Tad Pajak, President Pittsburgh AIHA*

Although Halloween is over, the Pittsburgh chapter was recently treated to a decidedly intriguing tour and education session that included amongst other items sweating manikins, robotic arms that gripped like a computer “hand tool”, and body-less head forms. These items are all part of the important work that NIOSH performs at its research facility in Jefferson Hills. We want to thank Judi Coyne for helping arrange this tour that was appreciated by the chapter members in attendance.

NIOSH, of course, is the research arm of the CDC, that conducts all types of research and testing in the area of employee safety and health. The tour's focus was on the research associated with personal protective equipment to help ensure that the respirators, gloves and other PPE that we wear is scientifically assessed and quantified so that there is no margin of error in assuring its effectiveness in protecting the work force. The researchers at NIOSH deliberately and scientifically assess different types of gloves and respirators to meet today's occupational hazards that include carbon nanotubes, and virus' that may be encountered in the health care field. It is refreshing to know that NIOSH is able to conduct their research in a setting that allows them to explore all variables that could affect worker safety and health. For example research using a robotic arm wearing a rubber glove exposed to carbon nanotubes was being done in the presence of other variables such as

surfactants to determine how readily nanotubes may penetrate a rubber glove.

At the advanced head form lab, “it's not your father's respirator” is an appropriate adage as physiologic data would suggest that face and head shapes in today's workforce are changing and NIOSH research helps ensure that these changes are accommodated. In addition, NIOSH continues to assure that a respiratory force requirement, to overcome respirator valve resistance, is in line with what the human body can achieve. Besides the educational value of the tour of each of the labs where research was being conducted, each of the chapter participants was able to observe and apply concepts and techniques to their own work situations. For example, at the sweating manikin lab, in understanding the physiological factors of an aging work force, one NIOSH researcher had to ponder the question about whether older persons have different sweating rates that could affect their safety.

Although we all cannot work in the interesting world of safety and health research, there are many chapter members' whose work or occupational experiences would be of interest for a future tour or meeting. The Pittsburgh chapter is currently trying to arrange a presentation that addresses the occupational health concerns of Marcellus shale workers.

Ever think of presenting at a chapter meeting? Open dates for you to present at a chapter meeting include possibly December, early February, April or June. Don't be shy, “step up” and present and make ours a better AIHA chapter. Contact any executive board member to volunteer as a meeting presenter.



**Thank you to the following members/guests who attended the NIOSH/NPPTL Tour event—we appreciate your participation!**

- Donna Bartlett, PPG Industries, Inc.
- George Bender, GHB Consulting Services, LLC
- Darrick Bertig, FirstEnergy Corp.
- Tom Blank, Babcock & Wilcox
- Joseph Damiano—URS/Natl. Energy Tech. Lab
- Steve Giatroudakis, Bettis Power Lab
- Dave Hanshew, Instrumentation Systems, Inc.
- Stan Liang, AM Health & Safety, Inc.
- Keenan Monaghan, West Virginia University
- Tad Pajak, Fireman's Fund Insurance Co.
- Jay Parker, NIOSH/NPPTL
- Frank Pokrywka, University of Pittsburgh
- Bernie Sersevic, Bettis Power Lab
- Raffie Sessa, RCS Heath & Safety Consulting
- Michael Swintek, Eastern Alliance Ins. Group
- Matt Zock, FedEx Ground

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## Pittsburgh AIHA 2015 Membership Renewal

*by Christy Kirsch, Corresponding Secretary/Newsletter Coordinator*

The 2015 renewal season is underway. The National AIHA began membership renewal in October for 2015. The National AIHA collects local section (LS) dues and automatically deposits payments into our LS bank account, which is very easy and efficient, and reduces the amount of paperwork and effort associated with dues collection. Therefore, local section (LS) members are encouraged to pay their LS dues through the National AIHA. **Please note: as approved in our Local Section Bylaws at the end of September, the annual dues has increased to \$25.**

[Click here for the link for dues renewal through Natl. AIHA](#), either national or non-national AIHA members can pay online through this link.

**National AIHA members** Please remember to check the box for Pittsburgh local section dues when you submit your payment. **Non-national AIHA members** who have paid

through Natl. AIHA can log in with their previously created user ID/password. If you have not created a profile, you will need to “Sign Up as a New Individual” to be able to pay through National AIHA. You can also visit the [National AIHA Membership page](#) for more information.

If you would prefer not to set up an account with National AIHA, or if you have any questions—please contact me at [kirsch211@comcast.net](mailto:kirsch211@comcast.net) or 724-941-5084.

 Happy Thanksgiving





### Member News

**Matt Zock, CIH, FedEx Ground**, recently attended two separate events in our nation’s capital. In October Matt attended the **2014 Future Leaders Institute** in

conjunction with American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) Fall Conference. The institute, funded through sponsorship and contributions, is an influential leadership development workshop for young industrial hygienists with less than 15 years of experience. Matt was selected for this competitive opportunity based on his contributions to the industry and his volunteerism with AIHA national working groups/committees and the community. More information about the Future Leaders Institute can be found on the AIHA website at <https://www.aiha.org/events/Pages/Future-Leaders-Institute.aspx>

On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, Matt attended an Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) workshop held at the National Academy of Sciences. The workshop, organized by a committee led by the Institute of Medicine (IOM) and National Research Council (NRC), was aimed to gather experts in the areas of medicine, biosafety, industrial hygiene, and others to inform The Department of Health and Human Services, public health officials, medical practices, and other stakeholders of the research needed to safeguard the U.S. public now and in the future. Research needs were categorized into subgroups including: transmission; survivability and infectivity; waste management; and personal protective equipment (PPE). A public report outlining the research priorities will be issued by the committee. More information can be found on the IOM website at <http://www.iom.edu/Activities/PublicHealth/EbolaTransmissionResearch/2014-NOV-03.aspx>



### Ebola Coverage and Resources

*Check out the National AIHA Website to find an extensive list of resources related to the Ebola crisis*

The Ebola crisis has prompted industrial hygiene and health and safety professionals to take extra measures to ensure that health, safety, and infection controls are properly implemented to safeguard healthcare workers and others during this outbreak. The [links found here](#) contain information related to the 2014 Ebola outbreak for IHs, OEHS professionals, and the public. Additional resources will be added to this list as more information becomes available.

Readers are encouraged to share their opinions and contribute to the discussions on AIHA's [LinkedIn](#) group. You can also join the conversation on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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## Air Quality Services, Inc. Closes Its Doors After 42 Successful Years

Submitted by Dan Flanagan, Port Authority of Allegheny County

"Today I close the door to the past, open the door to the future, take a deep breath and step on through to start the next chapter in my life." (Book of Quotes) This quote was a poignant addition to a farewell letter I received from Nancy M. Kotsko, Owner/Director of Air Quality Services, Inc. On December 31, 2014, the company is discontinuing operation after 42 successful years.

Air Quality Services, Inc. was founded by both Nancy Kotsko and John Frohlinger and incorporated on October 12, 1972. The company moved to its present location on Route 51 in Whitehall Borough in 1981. According to Valeria Hettich, in the early years of OSHA and EPA there were few consulting firms and laboratories. Expertise resided in the University of Pittsburgh School of Industrial and Environmental Sciences where both Nancy and Dr. Frohlinger were on staff. Was it possible to make a living by providing their knowledge to the community? At the time, everyone gave them thumbs down saying that the business would not last after a year. 42 years later...I guess they were wrong.

In addition to Ms. Kotsko, the staff consists of Valerie Hettich, Office Manager, Mai Brna, Technician, and Kathleen Broda, Microscopist. Valerie Hettich described her boss as someone who has steered the laboratory in not only a successful but respected manner for over 40 years. "She has moved heaven and earth to accommodate her clients. Her office houses more books,

articles, etc. than anyone I know, and the funny part is that it is all in her brain. We can ask her a question about any part of our business and she knows the answer."

Nancy's career advice: "Never think you know it all because new information can always change your theory. I learned from one job and applied that knowledge to the next project. You would be surprised how often that "AHA" moment happened. The successes have been many and there could be no failures if you learned from the experience." Nancy also serves as the auditor for the Pittsburgh AIHA and Valerie served many years as Pittsburgh AIHA Corresponding Secretary; an additional benefit to us and I know we are better for it.

Air Quality Services, Inc.'s list of clients ranges anywhere from large manufacturing firms to schools, small independent companies, medical facilities, power-generating companies, transportation and government facilities. According to Ms. Hettich, "We were fortunate to provide our services to clients all over the United States and even an occasional international request."

As Occupational Health and Safety Specialist for the Port Authority of Allegheny County, I have had the opportunity to utilize their services on many occasions. I found our vendor/client relationship to be exemplary. Air Quality Services has consistently demonstrated the ability to adapt their company to suit the needs of my workplace. Their timely laboratory analysis and explanation of results were instrumental in assisting me with the protection of my employees, and for that I am grateful. Best wishes to Nancy Kotsko and the entire staff of Air Quality Services.



## OSHA Launches National Dialogue on Hazardous Chemical Exposures and Permissible Exposure Limits in the Workplace

OSHA Press Release, October 9, 2014

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration today announced it is launching a national dialogue with stakeholders on ways to prevent work-related illness caused by exposure to hazardous substances. The first stage of this dialogue is a request for information on the management of hazardous chemical exposures in the workplace and strategies for updating permissible exposure limits.

OSHA's PELs, which are regulatory limits on the amount or concentration of a substance in the air, are intended to protect workers against the adverse health effects of exposure to hazardous substances. Ninety-five percent of OSHA's current PELs, which cover fewer than 500 chemicals, have not been updated since their adoption in 1971. The agency's current PELs cover only a small fraction of the tens of thousands of chemicals used in commerce, many of which are suspected of being harmful. Substantial resources are required to issue new exposure limits or update existing workplace exposure limits, as courts have required complex analyses for each proposed PEL.

"Many of our chemical exposure standards are dangerously out of date and do not adequately protect workers," said Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health Dr. David Michaels. "While we will continue to work on updating our workplace exposure limits, we are asking public health experts, chemical manufacturers, employers, unions and others committed to preventing workplace illnesses to help us identify new approaches to address chemical hazards."

OSHA is seeking public comment regarding current practices and future methods for updating PELs, as well as new strategies for better protecting workers from hazardous chemical exposures. Specifically, the agency requests suggestions on:

- possible streamlined approaches for risk assessment and feasibility analyses and
- alternative approaches for managing chemical exposures, including control banding, task-based approaches and informed substitution.

The goal of this public dialogue is to give stakeholders a forum to develop innovative, effective approaches to improve the health of workers in the United States. In the coming months, OSHA will announce additional ways for members of the public to participate in the conversation.

The comment period for the RFI will close on April 8, 2015. Members of the public are encouraged to [submit comments and suggestions](#) to OSHA. Instructions for submitting comments are available in the Federal Register, Docket No. OSHA-2012-0023, at <https://federalregister.gov/a/2014-24009>. For more information, please visit the OSHA Chemical Management Request for Information Web page at <http://www.osha.gov/chemicalmanagement/index.html>.



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## The Innov-X Portable XRF Analyzer

The advent of Innov-X Portable XRF analyzers has completely revolutionized environmental testing. Site sampling need no longer be a limiting factor in a comprehensive site investigation. In the past, studies relied exclusively on expensive and time consuming laboratory analysis based on samples they hoped fully characterized the site.

Portable XRF liberates and empowers environmental studies. While you're at the site, you can check the composition of soils, debris, run off streams, dust wipes, coatings, corings, paints, plastic and wood.

This means you won't lose precious time collecting non-representative samples and running up unnecessary lab costs.



## Toxic Vapor Analyzer

The TVA2020 Toxic Vapor analyzer is the only intrinsically safe, portable field analyzer using both Flame Ionization Detection (FID) and Photo Ionization Detection (PID) technologies.

- Dual FID/PID technology
- Bluetooth enabled
- Lightweight and compact design
- Easy to service in the field
- No PC based software required



## Toxic Vapor Analyzer Data Manager Accessory

The TVA1000B is the only over-the-shoulder portable vapor analyzer that offers both PID (Photo Ionization Detection) and FID (Flame Ionization Detection) in a single, easy-to-use instrument. The ability to utilize both technologies in this field proven instrument provides benefits in reduced weight and a single user interface. The user can easily monitor and log inorganic and organic vapors simultaneously.



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## Job Posting: Implementation & Risk Management Lead, Westinghouse Electric Company



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We currently have an exciting opportunity for an **Implementation & Risk Management Lead** in our EHS Risk & Assurance Group at our Cranberry Township, PA Headquarters. The Implementation & Risk Management Lead will coordinate the implementation of the EHS Risk Management process and the use of the EHS Risk Management Software tool throughout Westinghouse, coordinate the development, implementation and maintenance of the Westinghouse EHS Management System and Global EHS procedures and processes and support the technical training needs of Westinghouse's Global EHS function in coordination with Westinghouse Learning and Development.

The Implementation & Risk Management Lead will also expect to be responsible for the following:

- Develop and implement EHS Technical training courses and processes. Implement a Systematic Approach to Training model for development of EHS technical training. Coordinate with SMEs to identify training needs and for training analysis, development, and design. Help to develop qualified EHS training instructors wherever classroom training is necessary.
- Coordinate the implementation of the EHS Risk Management process and the EHS Risk Management software tool throughout Westinghouse.
- Support the development of standardized training requirements linked to job descriptions or tasks. Ensure proper training records management.
- Develop standardized EHS learning management system, via ATLAS or other approved mechanism, to effectively document and track training qualifications. Serve as training and communications liaison.
- Coordinate the standardization of EHS training across global Westinghouse. Incorporate product line developed training for sharing across product lines.
- Maintain the overall EHS management systems, standards, and procedures. Assure proper document control and review. Work with product lines and Global EHS to identify needs for new or revised procedures. Work with product lines and sites to identify site-level procedures or processes that may qualify as best practices.
- Coordinate and report on the EHS MS and Level 2 procedure implementation process.

### Minimum Requirements:

- Bachelors degree in Science, Engineering or EHS-related subject matter
- 7+ years in EHS or EHS-related field
- Demonstrated knowledge in EHS Management Systems, Risk Management processes, Audit/Assessment Processes, Training processes.
- Demonstrated knowledge and proficiency in understanding and interpreting EHS regulations.
- Solid technical writing skills.
- Ability to effectively organize and track assigned projects and processes.
- Ability to adapt process to the various regulatory and cultural environments present in a multi-national company.
- Ability to work cross-culturally in a regulatory and technical environment, influencing others to adapt processes and procedures to meet corporate-level requirements.

Reply to: <http://jobs.westinghousenuclear.com/en-us/Job-Details/Implementation-Risk-Management-Lead-Job/US-Cranberry-Twp-PA/Xjdp-jf559-ct101735-jid38193708>

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**Job Posting: Health & Safety Manager - Key Environmental, Inc.**

[Key Environmental, Inc. \(KEY\)](#) is a growing and innovative environmental consulting firm specializing in the investigation and remediation of environmentally-challenged properties across the U.S. KEY is headquartered in Carnegie, PA (a suburb of Pittsburgh) and has branch offices in Raritan, NJ, Portland, ME and Frederick, MD. We have an opening for a Corporate Health & Safety Manager in our Carnegie office.

The anticipated scope of work includes planning, organizing, directing and coordinating the safety mandates, programs and activities within the organization. The position also requires a high level of environmental compliance knowledge. The ideal candidate will have excellent technical, writing and interpersonal communication skills. Occasional overnight travel is required with this position. Salary is commensurate with experience and qualifications.

**Qualifications include:**

- Minimum B.S. degree in Industrial Hygiene, Environmental Science or similar academic major, CIH, CSP preferred with 5-10 years of professional experience

in safety and environmental compliance;

- Possess a strong knowledge of safety, environmental and D.O.T. regulations, rules, and procedures;
- Completion of OSHA 40-hour training preferred;
- Proficiency with MS Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc.);
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills;
- Ability to work well independently as well as in a project team and multi-task environment; and,
- Valid driver's license.

**Job duties include:**

- Prepare/revise project-specific health and safety plans, and job safety analyses to ensure safety programs are current;
- Prepare/revise company safety and health programs and assist field personnel in implementing these programs;
- Prepare environmental compliance plans, permits and reports;
- Conduct audits and inspections at work sites and prepare reports and provide recommendations to enhance worker safety and health as well as compliance with rules, regulations, policies and procedures;
- Conduct and/or coordinate safety training for employees;
- Provide interpretations of applicable environmental and safety regulations, rules, policies and procedures;
- Maintain safety documentation and statistics;
- Perform/provide industrial hygiene monitoring as required for specific job sites; and,
- Maintain safety and environmental records, prepare internal summary reports, and prepare regulatory required reports as necessary.

KEY offers a work environment where you can use your skills alongside others in a team environment to solve technically challenging project requirements. KEY offers an excellent benefits package, including health and dental insurance, 401(k) with company matching, profit sharing, and incentive bonus program. Interested candidates should submit a cover letter and resume by mail to Key Environmental, Inc., 200 Third Ave., Carnegie, PA 15106, ATTN: Human Resources or via e-mail to [mailbox@keyenvir.com](mailto:mailbox@keyenvir.com).

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## Upcoming November Events

### Free Safety Webinars:

The Bureau of Workers' Compensation Health & Safety Division is offering the following FREE safety webinars in November, 2014:

#### [Ergonomics](#)

Tuesday, November 18th from 1:30pm - 2:30pm

#### [Dealing with Angry People](#)

Wednesday, November 19th from 9:30am - 10:30am

#### [Walk Through Inspections](#)

Wednesday, November 19th from 1:30pm - 2:30pm

#### [Safe Lifting/Material Handling](#)

Thursday, November 20th from 9:30am - 10:30am

#### [Workplace Violence - Healthcare Setting](#)

Tuesday, November 25th from 9:30am - 10:30am



\*Webinar end time may be earlier or later due to course material as well as viewer participation.

### Annual Workplace Safety Committee Certification Training

[Tuesday, November 18th from 9:30am - 11:30am](#)

To register for any of these events just click on the link above and that will take you directly to the event homepage and a registration form.

Space is limited, register now!

To register for any of our safety trainings please visit our [Training Calendar](#).



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