

Oregon OSHA – ALH Advisory Committee

Employer Representative meeting

Wednesday February 23, 2022

8:30 a.m.

Attendees:

Sarah Rew	Ty Travis	Ann Billete
Lou Savage	Matt Borman	Nicole Mann
Julie Love	Brian Clarke	Jon Laraway
Gary Robertson	Jennifer Flood	Varon Blackburn
Renee Stapleton	Jenny Dressler	Bill
Kate Ryan	Mike Doke	Stacey Cooper
Lisa Appel	Carlos F.	Marissa Hokenson
Matt Keizer	Mike Omeg	Fernando Gutierrez
Ty Travis	Dave McLaughlin	

- ✓ Covid-19 in employer provided housing (comments through COB 2/224/22)
 - One grower reported spacing beds cut occupancy in half
 - One grower reported that with an air purifier occupancy was reduced by 25%
 - What is the safety/health benefit or the goal of spacing? What about when people are related?
 - Other aspects of work/life don't require spacing (OR OSHA is no longer enforcing 6' physical distancing)
 - Previously growers utilized Covid-19 pandemic resources (motels, etc.) to house workers (and ensure spacing) and the COVID money was available to reduce the cost and those safeguards or financial assistances are no longer in place or available to growers
 - 'Covid-19 response plan' is good idea – but many elements are already required by emergency medical plan. Should have some kind of plan.

- ✓ Upcoming survey

- ✓ OR OSHA assessment of redline draft (ongoing - will update RAC when completed)

✓ Infeasibility review:

- Enclose/insulate outdoor kitchen
 - Would require significant structural changes, timely and costly, to conduct work to enclose and make structures; or to relocate and rebuild
 - Pre-pandemic estimate to build stand alone communal kitchen were significant
 - Define 'enclosure' (roof/screen? Insulated walls?)

- Remove crops/fields to 300-1,000 ft. from housing
 - Would be significant loss of acreage
 - Would push many farms into cities – some where there is no housing (example: Hood River area)
 - Some small farms couldn't operate because they don't have other land to house workers

- Bring electrical panel up to current code
 - Panels can still be safe even if they don't meet current code – similar to the homes we live in and buildings we work in
 - Homes/businesses don't update electrical each year – why the additional suggestion for ALH?
 - Compromise proposed to have a regular inspection of panels

- Reduce shower head ratio to 1:5
 - Would this apply to new construction/new registrations only, or all ALH camps?
 - Plumbing work requires significant and costly infrastructure changes – both plumbing and potential septic costs
 - Septic is time consuming and costly – minimum 2 years for work to be done. A recent estimate to put in septic was \$100,000 (\$50,000 for building, and \$50,000 for permits/licensing) for new.
 - It's a challenge to get the drain field long enough to accommodate the needs of the system. Crops can not be planted over the drain field and will removed a considerable amount of land out of production.

- Provide additional washing machines for work clothes only
 - Septic may not handle increased capacity
 - Similar as toilets/showers – permitting/work takes minimum 2 years and takes acres out of production (larger drain field needed)

- Provide exhaust fan to portable toilets
 - All portables? How would you wire/power a portable structure that is rented?
 - Growers don't own them – they are brought/serviced by company that owns them unable to make modifications to them
- Provide locking storage cabinets with 21 cu. ft per occupant
 - Perhaps in dorm style living – but in family living that does not make as much sense.
- Space bunkbeds 8' apart
 - One grower stated this would cut in half the amount of workers they can house
- Increase sq. footage requirement to 113 sq. ft per occupant in live/cook/sleep area
 - Where did the extra 13 sq. ft. come from?
 - Need help to better understand how an additional 13 sq ft is centered in safety/health. Data or research would be helpful to understand this concept.
- reduce ratio of cooking burners to 1 per 5
 - Already at 2:10
- Require carbon monoxide detector in each unit
 - Would this be all units or only those with gas? Would it be one in the facility or multiple for sleeping rooms?
- ✓ Discussion: portable toilets towards required ratios
 - Many growers reported that they have sites where septic is not feasible and not allowing portable toilets would remove those sites and make them unusable
 - Growers requested considering a prolonged phase-in period
 - Growers requested considering allowing portable toilets for temporary labor housing sites
 - Some growers reported using ALH sites for less than 1 month that didn't have septic
 - Growers also reported that some of these sites are leased and they are not equipped with septic
 - One grower reported they have space for 500 workers across many sites that do not have septic. This grower began a plan to phase out portable toilets by 2030 as a proactive move regardless of the status of the rule.

- Requested/suggested phase-in because of the considerable cost to move workers, find housing, build housing, or install septic if allowed
 - Additionally, the septic process is a minimum of 2 years
- ✓ Items not reviewed:
- Replace 2” pads with mattresses

Next meeting: March 30, 2022

Oregon OSHA- ALH Advisory Committee

Worker Representative meeting

February 23, 2022

10:30 a.m.

Call to order/introductions:

Sarah Rew	Julie Love	Kate Ryan
Gary Robertson	Lou Savage	Fernando Gutierrez
Lisa A.	Nargess Shadbeh	Dave McLaughlin
Jennifer Flood	Laurie Hoefler	Tamas Schwabe
Lisa Arkin	Martha Elena Sonato	

- ✓ Covid-19 requirements in employer-provided labor housing (discussion and reminder of comments through COB 2/24/2022)
 - Bed spacing and air purifiers are important because Covid-19 is not over and also vaccination rates may not be very high in this population of workers
 - The group is advocating for no bunk beds among unrelated people
 - For cook/sleep/live spaces – increase to 113 sq. ft of space – this comes from FEMA guidelines for homeless tents
 - Workers need more space (both square footage and between beds)
 - *Request that ‘household’ be defined – and not just as workers who move around together in a group

- ✓ Survey notice: purpose and intention
 - Questions were raised about what specific questions are asked and how growers will measure responses. Ex. How will they measure nearness to crops? From the front door? Back door? Will you count all buildings? Are you only looking at sleeping rooms? What about kitchens or outhouses?
 - One advocate stated that in addition to housing, chemical storage should also be far from crops because it could be a fire hazard

- ✓ OR OSHA assessment of redline draft (ongoing – near completion; will update RAC when finished)

- ✓ Update from this morning’s meeting and continued discussion:

- Enclose/insulate outdoor kitchen
 - Enclosures should protect workers from the elements – including heat/smoke/drift
 - Enclosures should protect workers from cold and heat
 - Enclosures should include insulation and there should be no gaps
 - Questions were brought up as to what workers need to cook – they need full kitchen: water, counters, cooking facilities, fridge, etc. Moving cooking facilities outside often means they are away from water – it's not sanitary
 - Remove crops/fields to 300-1,000 ft. from housing
 - Consider improving equipment used for air application (and calibration to reduce spread) – because the applicators being used are dated
 - Consider using pesticides that are less toxic
 - Consider landscaping to block spread of pesticides
 - Consider bringing all facilities indoors
 - Consider community housing and partnerships for shared housing
 - Consider any combination of the above
 - Reduce shower head ratio to 1:5
 - So workers can shower immediately after being in the fields
 - Also, consider options for privacy – maybe there are available showers, but no privacy. When an occupant can't lock an individual shower door, they lock the outer door which means the other showers are no longer available and limits occupants ability to access the showers.
 - Provide additional washing machines for work clothes only
 - Existing washing machines aren't always being used because they run out of hot water or because there isn't enough water pressure
 - Provide exhaust fan to portable toilets
 - Provide locking storage cabinets with 21 sq. ft per occupant
 - Ensure electrical panels comply with current code
- ✓ Update/summary of items (previously not covered) from this morning's meeting:
- Space bunkbeds 8' apart
 - See conversation from Covid-19 discussion, but ultimately advocates want more spacing between beds – outside of Covid-19
 - Workers use beds for more than sleeping (storage as well)
 - Increase sq. footage requirement to 113 sq. ft per occupant in live/cook/sleep area
 - From FEMA guidelines
 - Require carbon monoxide detector in each unit
 - reduce ratio of cooking burners to 1 per 5
 - Ratio is already at 2:10 (1:5)

- ✓ Update/summary of portable toilets discussion from this morning's meeting
 - Portable toilets are a problem for children of workers
 - No matter how much you clean them they aren't pleasant
 - Requested that they not be counted at all
 - OR OSHA stated that some sites cannot have septic and banning portables would make those sites unusable
 - Advocates requested more data on numbers of housing sites without septic

- ✓ It was suggested (by OR OSHA) that perhaps FEMA mobile facilities be looked at
 - Advocates responded that they'd need to learn more about it

- ✓ Items not covered:
 - Replace 2" pads with mattresses

Next meeting: March 30, 2022