



Lead PEL RAC Meeting Minutes

Friday, July 21, 2023, 9-11am, Zoom

Attendees:

Linda Pressnell, Oregon OSHA	Angie Marsh, Oregon OSHA	Brian Hauck, Oregon OSHA	Greig Lowell, Oregon OSHA
Dave McLaughlin, Oregon OSHA	Ted Bunch, Oregon OSHA	Sarah Rew, Oregon OSHA	Steve Fisher, City of Portland
Athina Watkins, Oregon OSHA	David Dreher, Oregon Health Authority	Ryan Barker, Oregon Health Authority	Robert Snyder, ODOT
John Stebbins, Washington Dept. of Labor & Industries	Joe Robertson, Oregon Health Policy Board		

Linda Pressnell started the meeting at 9:04am.

Linda: Information

- This is a “data dump” meeting.
- It’s important to note that the EPA announced they’re proposing new lead rules.
- For our upcoming meetings:
 - August: We’ll review the health elements related to Blood Lead Levels (BLL).
 - September: We’ll look at what our rule should include & begin drafting language.
 - October: We’ll continue building the draft language.

Linda: Agenda Items

1. Review the following:

a. Blood lead levels from OHA

- From 2022, 4th quarter
- Takeaway is: Medical removal 0 results \geq ug/dL and 80 results \geq 15 ug/dL
- Dave from OHA: To clarify, this number does not necessarily mean 80 people because some people test multiple times. Also, data includes all tests (sent from electronic medical reference systems & labs) of adults (ages 16 and up) in Oregon; some may not be occupationally related.
- Linda shared her screen: A Table of EBLL in Oregon. She noted that the ranges in cases go from 205 in 2015 to 222 in 2022. These numbers are both occupational and non-occupational.
- Linda shared another screen: 74% of Oregon cases from NAICS 33591 are from Battery Manufacturing, with the majority from 1 employer. This is followed in order by: Bridge Work, Shooting Ranges/Manufacturing, Radiator Repair, Wood Window Restoration, X-ray Shielding Production, and some that are non-occupational.
- Linda & others agreed that there should be a representative from the Battery Manufacturing industry in this group. And from a Shooting range or the like.
- Linda shared a chart of EBLL from OHA, noting that 2015 was the year OHA started using greater than/equal to 5 mcg/dL instead of greater than/equal to 10 mcg/dL. Dave from OHA confirmed this.

b. Air Sampling data from Oregon OSHA

- From our own lab, data is from the last 22 years. 5% came in as overexposures/highest exposures from: paint removal, sand blasting, bridge work, radiator repair (soldering with metal wand/open flame), firearms, glass making, torch cutting, lead melting, bronze work, and recycling.
- Note that battery manufacturing may fall within these categories, but typically companies have safety personnel.
- Note that BLL vs. Air Sampling Level is an issue proposed by Cal-OSHA, so this group should consider if compliance with BLL is the most important factor.
- Note that with electrical soldering and welding, very few are over the PEL.

c. Wipe Sampling data from Oregon OSHA

- Linda shared a slide: Lead wipe sampling from Oregon OSHA covering the last 10 years, noting that 300+ results are greater than or equal to 200 ug/sq. ft.

- Highest exposures are from (in order): Paint removal, bridge work, sandblasting, firearms, soldering, radiator repair, wood window/furniture restoration, recycling/scrap yard, and circuit board manufacturing.

d. Violations from inspections

- Linda is still looking at these and will review hazard letters in particular.

2. EPA proposed lead rulemaking

- Linda noted: the EPA proposes there is no safe level for homes, schools, etc.
- John S.: In Washington, we do wipe samples over a specific surface area.
- Linda: This group should consider: Should break rooms, restrooms, etc. be considered in surface level contamination? Should hand hygiene as well?

3. Old business

- How many employees would be removed if Oregon adopts 15 ug/dl BLL?
 - Linda and Dave from OHA looking into this.
- Non-compliance with current rule and why
 - Linda looking into this.
- Health impacts of BLL, other health-related issues
 - Will dedicate our August meeting to this; Linda is looking for an expert to attend.
 - Rob: I'd like to understand what it looks like if workers are displaced by the rules. Might be a collective bargaining and/or workers comp issue if there's a medical removal element.
 - Linda: Yes, and also need to look at addressing pregnant workers.
 - Dave M.: Court issues in this past with employers that reassigned pregnant workers to jobs that pay less. Johnson Controls was sued for discrimination over this, and the employees won.
 - Rob: Lead training overall, for all employees, could/should incorporate this and other special situations involving lead exposure reduction.

-No new business. Meeting adjourned at 10:31am. Next meeting: Friday, August 18.

-Note: Links to rulemaking by other agencies are found on our website.

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