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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

March 10, 1981

MEMORANDUM

OFFICE OF
PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

SUBJECT: Diving Safety Program Status Report

FROM: Anthony D. Brown, Manager *AD Brown*
Agency Safety Programs

TO: Robert C. Magor, Director
Office of Occupational Health and Safety (PM-273)

I met with Mike Heeb, ORD, Jim Patrick and Pat Borthwick of Gulf Breeze and Joe LaRocca, OSHA-DOL during the Diving Symposium to: (1) finalize EPA Diving Safety Procedures, (2) select a Diving Safety Committee and (3) elect a Chairman for the Committee.

Due in part to the absence of most diving officers it was suggested that the Diving Safety Committee consist of the diving officers from the most active facilities (Narragansett, Athens and Gulf Breeze), and Dr. Heeb, who represents ORD management at Headquarters and is recognized for his diving experience and knowledge, be selected as Chairman.

Dr. Michael Heeb has extensive diving experience and has worked with NOAA on undersea research. Dr. Heeb has agreed to Chair this vital Committee in addressing EPA diving safety programs.

The selection of members and appointment of a Chairman of the Diving Safety Committee was agreed upon by diving officers present and others by phone. The Diving Safety Committee consist of:

Michael Heeb, Chairman, Hdqts, Washington
Jim Patrick, Diving Officer, Gulf Breeze
Bruce Reynolds, Diving Officer, Narragansett
Don Longhorn, Diving Officer, Athens, S&A
Tony Brown, Safety Manager, OOHs
*Bill Murray, Advisor, ORD, Washington

- * Dr. William Murray, ORD, Washington, is an experienced diver and is a strong advocate for an effective EPA Diving Safety Program. His nomination, like Dr. Heeb's, to participate in the Diving Safety Committee was supported by the AA for ORD.

The next step in developing a strong diving safety program is to schedule the NOAA, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, training and certification program for all divers. An interagency agreement can be developed between OOHs and NOAA for one course this spring or summer. OOHs can fund the training cost with each facility picking up the travel and per diem.

Another objective of the meeting was to review the comments received from the "red border review" of the new OHS Manual Chapter on diving safety. The comments were reviewed, each of us either agreeing, disagreeing or making modifications after discussion. The chapter has been revised taking into consideration the comment received. Overall, I believe this new chapter represents the consensus of the Agency and will be supported by the divers and program management.

cc: M. Heeb, ORD
W. Murray, ORD
P. Neuschatz, ORD
J. Patrick, Gulf Breeze
B. Reynolds, Narragansett
D. Longhorn, Athens-S&A
G. Parker, Region I
L. Waltz, NEIC
T. Bradickm Region VIII
G. Burns, Region X

OIC

Gulf Breeze
Narragansett
Athens - S&A
NEIC
Region I
Region VIII
Region X