

PUBLIC SMOKING ISSUE

Primary Responsibility: Martha Rinker
Sharon Ransome
Kay Thomas

Overview

In January, TI staff completed new EPA and OSHA strategy plans. Staff continued to work on ongoing projects including an effort to work with the American Association of Airline Executives (AAAE) on a smoking policy guide for airports, completion of the TI response to the ICC's final rulemaking on an interstate bus smoking ban, and a refinement of the 1991 workplace program plan to reflect the EPA ETS activity of December, 1990. Staff also continued to make revisions to both the ETS briefing book for science and health reporters and the Corporate Assistance Program materials.

Indoor Air Quality Highlights

In consultation with company representatives, The Institute developed a strategy for ongoing and upcoming federal agency activities on ETS.

We submitted a follow-up letter to EPA Administrator William Reilly regarding problems with the process of EPA and EPA Science Advisory Board review of the ETS risk assessment and workplace policy guide.

An industry consultant scheduled to speak during the SAB hearing on the ETS risk assessment and policy guide also wrote to Administrator Reilly to protest the board's failure to allow time for his presentation while allowing disproportionate time for presentations supportive of the risk assessment's conclusions.

We began preparing additional scientific analyses for submission to the EPA and its Science Advisory Board, and for publication in scientific journals, based on the SAB's recommendations for revision of the ETS risk assessment.

We continued to make progress in developing an economic impact analysis of the ETS workplace policy guide, based on its likely regulatory effect.

Institute consultants attended and reported on the EPA Science Advisory Board Executive Committee meeting and the Science Advisory Board subcommittee hearing on the Agency's risk assessment of electromagnetic radiation. Institute representatives also attended a scientific workshop on the health effects of electromagnetic radiation sponsored jointly by the

Public Smoking - January Report
Page 2

Centers for Disease Control and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

Institute representatives scheduled a meeting for early February with officials from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health regarding the proposed NIOSH Current Intelligence Bulletin on ETS.

The Journal of Smoking Related Disorders tentatively accepted for publication a paper prepared by two of The Institute's academic consultants entitled "Assessing Exposure to ETS: Is it Valid to Extrapolate from Active Smoking?"

Academic consultants continued preparing letters to the American Heart Association's Circulation journal regarding cardiovascular disease claims by Glantz and Parmley published in the January issue.

Academic consultants also began preparing an op-ed on risk assessment for publication in USA Today and a response to the American Journal of Epidemiology on an article claiming increased childhood cancer risk from parental smoking.

We authorized initial development of a conference on science and policy, which would include a session on ETS and the EPA ETS risk assessment, to be sponsored by an independent scientific organization.

We began working with a potential new member of the scientific witness team and provided ETS review materials to an additional candidate for initial consideration.

We prepared for the annual scientific witness team ETS update meeting scheduled for February.

We began working with Healthy Buildings International to obtain detailed data on workplace air contaminants for possible use in providing information to OSHA on workplace air quality.

Institute consultants participated in four scientific meetings, including a seminar on estimating lung cancer risk from ETS, the ASHRAE conference on diagnosing and mitigating indoor air quality problems and the annual meeting of the Association of Energy Engineers.

Corporate/Smoker Assistance

In January, TI received 120 requests for materials from both management and non-management.

Discussions continued with field staff to produce the New Hampshire employers' guide. The NH brochure was placed on hold in 1990 pending the outcome of a legislative decision on two public smoking amendments. A member company has urged the publication of a document with the current information and an addendum with the amendments, if necessary, at a later date.

Both the "Some Considerations" kit and the "Tobacco Smoke and the Nonsmoker" are being updated to reflect new information available since McGill and the EPA SAB hearing. Revisions should be completed and new brochures printed in March.

Missouri will be the first state to be targeted for a resource guide mailing for 1991. This mailing will take place in February.

In January the General Motors Technical Center issued a plan to ban smoking for the Chevrolet-Pontiac-Canada division effective March 1991. The UAW is trying to secure designated smoking lounges for the employees who smoke. Labor Management Committee representatives are working with the UAW during the negotiations between the union and the company. Employees are allowed to continue smoking until the discussions are completed.

The fourth quarter corporate assistance report has been prepared and submitted for approval.

Staff continued to work on revisions to the Corporate Assistance Program plan and the proposed insurance program plan. Completion of both plans is expected in February.

Other

The American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE) has approved an airport smoking policy guide, "An Airport Executive's Guide to Smoking Policies in Public Airports." Although this document has many problems, it is as the result of TI's efforts there are two smoking policy options given to airport executives

Public Smoking - January Report
Page 4

rather than only the ban the association originally contemplated. TI's planned response includes articles on IAQ problems and solutions by our ventilation experts and possibly a TI rebuttle to the policy for the AAAE magazine Airport.

The Interstate Commerce Commission published its final rule on a smoking ban on all interstate buses, except charters. TI is considering possible options for requesting reconsideration of the rule.

NEMI conducted a contractor training seminar in Des Moines, Iowa. In conjunction with the seminar, Frank Powell was interviewed for two radio public affairs programs and a television news program.

Next Month's Goals

- Continue to work on the ETS briefing book.
- Review the progress of the identification and recruitment of academic researchers for the scientific witness program.
- Complete revisions to the Corporate Assistance Program materials.
- Continue to work with the AAAE on airport smoking issues.
- Complete production of the CLUW Handbook on Workplace Hazards.
- Complete the revisions to the 1991 Corporate Assistance Program plan.
- Complete the insurance program plan.