



Bannister Federal Complex NIOSH Health Hazard Evaluation

April 2010



GSA has invited the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), a division of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), to conduct a *Health Hazard Evaluation* to assess the workplace and worker safety in GSA managed space at the Bannister Federal Complex.

NIOSH was created by the 1970 Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) to conduct research and make recommendations for the prevention of work-related injury and illness.

Health Hazard Evaluation

Health Hazard Evaluation scientists do workplace assessments to establish whether workers are "exposed to hazardous materials or harmful conditions and whether these exposures are affecting worker health."

NIOSH is taking the following steps to collect information about workplace health concerns in the GSA space at the Bannister Federal Complex:

1. Consultation with GSA (completed March 5, 2010);
2. Data collection from GSA (initial information supplied as of March 5, 2010); and
3. Assessment of the GSA space in the Bannister Federal Complex.

*Two types of assessments will be conducted:

- An *Environmental Exposure Assessment* includes reviews of environmental sampling, analyses of those samples, and a comparison to occupational exposure in other settings and available national standards.
- A *Medical Surveillance Assessment* includes a review of formal and anecdotal health concerns volunteered by GSA employees and tenants, and a review of historical health information from OSHA logs covering the past five years. NIOSH uses this information to develop a clinical picture that will be used to determine if there is indication of occupational risk.

Evaluation Schedule

NIOSH collected employee health information from March 15 to March 26, 2010. The entire evaluation process is expected to be completed by June 2010.

Possible Outcomes

NIOSH will make a determination and formulate recommendations about next steps for GSA based on their analysis of both environmental and health information. Possible next steps include, but may not be limited to:

1. A more in-depth cross-sectional epidemiological study (an additional 6-12 month process);
2. Recommendation for further environmental sampling and health monitoring; or
3. No further action.

Confidentiality of Employee Information

NIOSH protects the confidentiality of the information provided by employees and others. No personal identifiers are collected with the evaluation. Only authorized personnel have access to the information. Results are reported as aggregate information.

The Occupational Health and Safety Administration [OSHA] is part of the Department of Labor and has responsibility for developing and enforcing workplace safety and health regulations. For More Information Contact: Dr. Carlos Aristeguieta, NIOSH Medical Officer, cma9@cdc.gov, (513) 458-7173



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