

# ENVIRONMENTAL & LABORATORY SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday July 18, 2007  
SLB 292

**Present:** G. Kidder, G. Barbe, K. Griffith, R. Maslen, A. M. McCusker, G. Qubty.,  
J. Stanley

**Regrets:** J. McMullin, P. Ossenkopp, V. Smith, G. Wagner

1. G. Kidder gave an introduction to nanotechnology and the ELSC.  
Discussed risks of nanoparticles - New Engineering Green Building standards
2. J. Stanley gave presentation on nanotechnology.  
Questions asked: How are the particles created?  
Are HEPA filters capable of dealing with nano particles?
3. A.M. McCusker gave presentation on Nanotechnology at Western.  
Class of Biological Safety Cabinet and HEPA filters discussed
4. Development of Program was discussed  
Term "nanotechnology" – use caution in what it applies to. Use numbers <100nm  
to define as nanotechnology

## Conclusion:

Need to understand science a lot better in order to set proper guidelines.  
Consider having an expert on the committee  
Need more information to define what we should be concerned with, before we can  
implement procedures and policies.  
Workers must be informed of control measures - identify controls first  
Engineering controls must be used when applicable before PPE

## Action:

A.M. McCusker to find out where instrumentation in Nanofabrication labs are  
exhausting, find out what is being exhausted, in what direction and what PPE is used.

Western Institute of Nanotechnology Science - WINS – AM McCusker to contact  
Rob Lipson to find out who is using and what type of research is done by  
nanotechnology labs/users

A.M. McCusker to contact G. Nilsson, NINT Health and Safety officer

G. Qubty to check efficiencies of HEPA filters.

5. Need more information to be able to tell Engineering what to use
  - recommend maximum protection if they need decision right away
  - Biological safety cabinets type 2BII and HEPA filter - is considered best option at this time
  - Any and all precautions must be taken because the hazards of nanomaterials are largely unknowns

Next meeting to be arranged after more information is gathered from National Institute – late August

Involve major players in the decision processing