

Laboratory & Equipment Services Section Updates

It has been a very busy year at MIOSHA's Laboratory & Equipment Services Section (LESS). Early retirements and subsequent promotions and back fills have reshaped the face of LESS.

Marie Matusz, Robert Straley, and Kevin Worden took advantage of the early retirement incentives, and Ron Ray was promoted to the Director of the Management and Technical Services Division.

We are very pleased to announce that Ann Whitaker has accepted the LESS Program Manager position. Ann has been acting as the LESS Program Manager since Ron left, and was previously the senior analyst in our Spectroscopy lab. Ann has over 11 years experience with MIOSHA working primarily in metals and asbestos analyses. Thanks to Ann for accepting the position and dedicating her experience, skills and leadership to our program.

New faces at the lab include David Isenga, who came to us from the Michigan Department of Community Health to fill the Quality Assurance Manager position vacated by Kevin Worden. David has had a full schedule readying the lab for reaccreditation by the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA), but has proven he is up to the task.

Barry Baker came to us from the Michigan State Police as a Laboratory Scientist to fill the position formerly held by Robert Straley, and has taken on the role of our metals analyst. Barry has been busy validating our new Inductively Coupled Plasma Optical Emission Spectrometer, which is challenging to say the least.

Adam Mittino recently came to us from the private sector to fill the Laboratory Scientist position formerly held by Marie Matusz, and has become our asbestos analyst. Adam has extensive experience analyzing bulk and airborne asbestos, and is proving to be a valuable addition to our staff.

LESS lost one lab scientist position in the transition and continues to reassess priorities and realign responsibilities to keep the operation running smoothly.

In September, LESS underwent a rigorous three day site assessment by the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) as part of our biennial reaccreditation process. This is a demanding assessment during normal times, and Ann and David rose up to meet the challenge in their new positions. Due to their hard work, and that of laboratory staff, reaccreditation in industrial hygiene analyses has been approved by AIHA effective 1/1/2012.

Our staffing changes and commitment to quality ensure that LESS will continue to provide timely and accurate analysis of industrial hygiene samples to our customers. Please be assured that any analyses outside of our current capabilities will be performed by an appropriately accredited laboratory to maintain LESS's reputation of providing accurate, defensible results to ensure the health of Michigan workers.