

American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO

1300 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005

December 10, 2002

Gary Kloepfer

National Representative-At-Large
Maintenance Division
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President
William Lewis
APWU - Trenton Metro Area Local
P.O. Box 8011
Trenton, N.J. 08650

Dear Brother Lewis:

The Union was advised at the November 19, 2002 Safety and Security Task Force Meeting that it planned to install Biological Detection System (BDS) units in fourteen (14) test sites, including the **Trenton, NJ P&DC**, as part of its efforts to detect biological agents, such as anthrax, in the mail stream. The BDS systems are scheduled to be installed on AFCS's, Flats Cancellor's, and hand canceller's. This equipment is scheduled to be installed by April of 2003.

This equipment has been tested in Baltimore and has been observed and discussed by the Safety and Security Task Force. This letter is only to alert you to the fact that this equipment is being installed in your Facility, it is not an endorsement of the equipment from the Union. We are continuing to monitor and discuss this equipment to ensure that the safety of all postal employees is protected.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions regarding this matter. In closing I remain,

Sincerely and Fraternaly,



Gary Kloepfer
National Representative at Large

GK/ymv
Attachment

Cc: William Burrus, President
Greg Bell, Director, Industrial Relations
Corey Thompson

National Executive Board

William Burrus
President

Cliff "C.J." Guffey
Executive Vice President

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Memorandum

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November 21, 2002

From the Office of GARY KLOEPFER
National Rep-At-Large
Maintenance Division

TO: William Burrus, President
Cliff Guffey, Vice President
SUBJECT: Greg Bell, Director, Industrial Relations



November 19, 2002 Safety I Security Task Force Meeting

1. Biological Detection System (BDS) and Ventilation and Filtration System (VFS)

A. BIOLOGICAL DETECTION SYSTEMS (BDS)

The Postal Service provided a Power Point presentation describing the current status of the above equipment. It currently has five (5) efforts to deal with biological threats to the mail stream:

- b. Mail Sanitization
- c. Detection equipment being installed on canceling equipment
- d. Filtration modifications on Mail Processing Equipment
- e. Investigation (capture and archive mail piece images)
- f. Studying Collection Mail Containment Systems

An explanation of the detection equipment that is being tested in Baltimore P&DC was provided. The detection equipment is being tested on 10 AFCS, one (1) Flats Cancellor, and one (1) NEC Cancellor (hand canceller). This explanation was consistent with the Union's observations of this equipment during a site visit earlier this year.

The Postal Service also stated that the new equipment was having the ability to sample for multiple agents built into the Baltimore equipment. No additional explanation of this issue was provided.

In October of 2002 the Board of Governors approved the purchase of 1728 BDS systems for installation in various offices.

By April of 2003, it is anticipated to have BDS equipment in 14 test sites *with full deployment to begin in September of 2003. It is expected to take up to one (1) year for full deployment*

The 14 Test sites for BDS systems are:

Dulles P&DC
Washington DC P&DC (Southern Maryland P&DC)
Pittsburgh, P&DC
Lancaster, PA, P&DC
Cleveland, OH, P&DC
St. Pete, FL, P&DC
Tampa, FL, P&DC
Manasota, FL, P&DC
Midland TX, P&DC
Tacoma, WA, P&DC
Rockland, IL, P&DC
Albany, NY, P&DC
Los Angeles P&DC
Trenton, NJ P&DC (Khmer P&DC)

B. VENTILATION & FILTRATION SYSTEMS (VFS)

VFS systems will be installed in 010 systems, DPRC, LMDS, Hamper Dumpers, AFCS, AFSM 100's, DBCS (*outgoing equipment only*), and UFSM 1000's.

A prototype has been developed for the above equipment with the exception of the AFSM 100. One **prototype has been tested** at the Dulles P&DC.

All VFS systems have been approved by NIOSH.

A VFS system will be installed and tested in Cleveland Ohio P&DC on eight (8) AFCS, hamper dumpers, and DPRC & LMDS.

2. Brentwood Update

Humidity Control Testing was started and stopped after cracks were found in pipes. Cracks were found approximately every six (6) feet. 6900 feet of pipe was replaced. Humidification test began November 18, 2002 and will run through November 21, 2002. After that, it will take 120 hours

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for the building to dry. December 10, 2002 is the planned date for final fumigation.

3. Locker Update

A. Brentwood

1818 checks have been mailed to employees

Trenton

Six hundred two employees accepted \$100.00. checks
One hundred sixty eight employees have not responded
One hundred forty nine employees are requesting more than \$100.00.

4. Anthrax Vaccinations

The Postal Service, by letter dated November 5, 2002, notified Homeland Security office that every employee that comes in direct contact with the mail, whether the processing of the mail or the delivery of the mail, should be offered the anthrax vaccine, approximately 600,000 employees.

5. Smallpox Vaccinations

The Postal Service, by letter dated November 8, 2002, notified the Department of Health and Human Services advising that it must **be able** to offer inoculation protection against smallpox to all its employees because of the very nature of postal business and the potential damage to the country.

6. Category A Diseases Booklet

The group approved the go-ahead to publish the Category A Disease booklet, which has been modeled after the CDC's booklet. The booklet will be published after the group reviews the final product.

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7. The Postal Service will provide a response to the APWU's request for a specific response to the GAO's report on detection equipment
8. The Postal Service will provide a JSA and video describing the **safe** method of changing filters in HEPA vacuums.
9. The Postal Service provided an update on the suspicious material incident at the Oregon State Capital building and Post Office. All tests were negative and stand-up talks were provided to all employees explaining the incident.
10. The Postal Service will look into whether it has a policy regarding the moving of equipment to other facilities that had been previously contaminated by anthrax. (Refer to Morgan Street Station and Memphis, TN.) Employees are fearful of working on equipment previously contaminated by anthrax due to the uncertainty regarding the lack of verification that the equipment has been cleaned.
11. The Postal Service provided an update on the suspicious material incident in Shreveport Louisiana. The material was tested and the results were negative. The Union will be provided a copy of the Incident Report as there remains a dispute regarding the protocol that was followed following the discovery of the suspicious material.

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