



VICE President for ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

To: Joel Kuipers, David Bjelajac, Robert Donaldson, Michael King,
Thomas Mazzuchi, David Rowley, John Lewis, William Parke
Rolf Peterson

From: Donald R. Lehman
Vice President For Academic Affairs

Date: 9 August 2000

Subject: Hazardous Materials Safety Committee Meeting

I want to inform you of an upcoming meeting of the University Hazardous Materials Committee scheduled for Friday, August 25, 2000, at 3:00 p.m., in the Gelman Library, Room 804 A. The meeting is being organized by the Office of Risk Management in response to the University's recent environmental fines levied by the EPA.

In June of 2000, GWU agreed to a \$57,000 settlement with EPA after the University negotiated its way down from an initial fine of \$ 102,000. The negative publicity from this incident highlights the need to improve institutional environmental policies and procedures. Corrective actions to remedy hazardous waste management violations will necessitate operational changes within the academic community. Because these changes will have a direct impact on your department, your attendance at this meeting is required. Additionally, departmental chairs will be asked to provide the following information:

- Designate a Chemical Hygiene Officer for each lab who will be responsible for coordinating regulatory activities with the Risk Management Office.

Submit a list of these individuals and their corresponding laboratories to my Office by September 2, 2000.

The Risk Management Office will discuss other details concerning the specific responsibilities of the Chemical Hygiene Officers at the meeting. The most effective means to ensure regulatory compliance in our laboratories is to instill "ownership" of the waste handling process at laboratory level. Going forward, academic departments will be responsible for absorbing any costs associated with regulatory fines arising from their operations.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

cc: Joseph Yohe