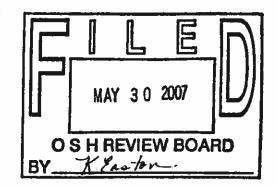
NEVADA OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW BOARD

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
OF THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND
HEALTH ENFORCEMENT SECTION,
DIVISION OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND

Docket No. LV 07-1322



Complainant,

vs.

ADVANCED ARCHITECTURAL METALS,

Respondent.

DECISION

This matter having come before the NEVADA OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW BOARD at a hearing commenced on the 9th day of May 2007, in furtherance of notice duly provided according to law, JOHN WILES, ESQ., counsel appearing on behalf of the Chief Administrative Officer of the Occupational Safety and Health Enforcement Section, Division of Industrial Relations (OSHES), and DAVID MARTIN, ESQ., appearing on behalf of respondent, ADVANCED ARCHITECTURAL METALS; the NEVADA OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW BOARD finds as follows:

Jurisdiction in this matter has been conferred in accordance with Nevada Revised Statute 618.315.

The complaint filed by OSHES sets forth allegations of violations of Nevada Revised Statutes as referenced in Exhibit "A," attached thereto.

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INDUSTRY,

Citation 1, Item 1(a) charges a violation of 29 CFR 1910.132(f)(4). The complainant alleges that the employer respondent failed to ensure that employees received training on the use of personal protective equipment and failed to verify training through a written certification that contains the names of the employees trained, the dates and types of training subject of the certification. The violation was classified as "Serious." The proposed penalty for the alleged violation was grouped with violation Items 1(a) through 1(f) in the total sum of \$800.00.

Citation 1, Item 1(b) charges a violation of 29 CFR 1910.133(a)(1). The complainant alleges that the employer respondent failed to ensure that adequate eye protection was used by the machinist using both a bench grinder and several drill presses. The machinist wore only a pair of corrective lenses (without side shields) while he operated these machines without the use of guarding equipment. The violation was classified as "Serious." No separate penalty was assessed as same was grouped together with Item 1(a).

Citation 1, Item 1(c) charges a violation of 29 CFR 1910.134(e)(1). The complainant alleges that the employer respondent failed to ensure that employees who are required to use a tight-fitting half-face 3M respirator in the workplace while painting, welding or performing other work related duties had been medically evaluated and cleared to wear such respirators. The violation was classified as "Serious." No separate penalty was assessed as same was grouped together with Item 1(a).

Citation 1, Item 1(d) charges a violation of 29 CFR 1910.134(e)(6)(i). The complainant alleges that the employer

respondent failed to obtain written documentation from a PLHCP for each employee that used a tight fitting half-face respirator regarding that employee's ability to use such a respirator. The violation was classified as "Serious." No separate penalty was assessed as same was grouped together with Item 1(a).

Citation 1, Item 1(e) charges a violation of 29 CFR 1910.134(f)(2). The complainant alleges that the employer respondent failed to ensure that the welder/painter employees using tight-fitting facepiece respirators to protect themselves from hazardous chemicals encountered while performing work related duties had been fit tested prior to initial use and/or at least annually thereafter. The violation was classified as "Serious." No separate penalty was assessed as same was grouped together with Item 1(a).

Citation 1, Item 1(f) charges a violation of 29 CFR 1910.134(k)(1). The complainant alleges that the employer failed to provide effective training and ensure that each employee that wore a respirator could demonstrate knowledge of the basic elements of respirators. Some employees did not know the rationale for changing respirator cartridges and filters. Employees did not understand the purposes of a medical evaluation or a fit test. The employer had no records of respiratory protection training for current welder/painter employees. The violation was classified as "Serious." No separate penalty was assessed as same was grouped together with Item 1(a).

Citation 1, Item 2(a) charges a violation of 29 CFR 1910.151(c). The complainant alleges that the employer respondent failed to provide suitable facilities for flushing of the eyes and body for employees exposed to injurious corrosive materials such as

the Sur-Fin acids used to treat metals. The eyewash station in the metal treatment area was covered by storage materials and/or debris and therefore inaccessible for use by employees. During the initial walkaround, management and employees were unable to find the subject eyewash station. The violation was classified as "Serious." The proposed penalty for the alleged violation was grouped with violation Items 2(a) through 2(c) in the total sum of \$800.00.

Citation 1, Item 2(b) charges a violation of 29 CFR 1910.1200(e)(1)(i). The complainant alleges the employer respondent failed to ensure that employees had access to a list of hazardous chemicals using an identity that is referenced on the corresponding material safety data sheet (MSDS). Without a list, employees would have difficulty locating MSDS for acids and other hazardous chemicals in the event of an overexposure. The violation was classified as "Serious." No separate penalty was assessed as same was grouped together with Item 2(a).

Citation 1, Item 2(c) charges a violation of 29 CFR 1910.1200(h)(1). The complainant alleges the employer respondent failed to ensure that the hazard communication program was fully implemented. The employer failed to adequately train employees on the hazards of the chemicals used in the workplace and the use and location of MSDS. The violation was classified as "Serious." No separate penalty was assessed as same was grouped together with Item 2(a).

Citation 1, Item 3(a) charges a violation of 29 CFR 1910.212(a)(3)(ii). The complainant alleges the employer respondent failed to ensure that the points of operation on two drill presses used by the machinist were always guarded during use to protect

employees from moving parts and flying metal particles. Employees failed to use the removable guard while boring holes in metal. The violation was classified as "Serious." The proposed penalty for the alleged violation was grouped with violation Items 3(a) through 3(d) in the total sum of \$800.00.

Citation 1, Citation 3(b) charges a violation of 29 CFR 1910.215(a)(2). The complaint alleges the employer respondent failed to provide a guard for the end (sides) of the Delta bench grinder used by the machinist thereby exposing him to the potential of hazard of flying abrasive wheel fragments in the event of wheel breakage. The violation was classified as "Serious." No separate penalty was assessed as same was grouped together with Item 3(a).

Citation 1, Citation 3(c) charges a violation of 29 CFR 1910.215(a)(4). The complaint alleges the employer respondent failed to ensure that a work rest was installed on the right wheel of the Delta bench grinder used by the machinist to grind and smooth metal parts. The gap between the wheel and the guard where the work rest should have been installed was one inch. The violation was classified as "Serious." No separate penalty was assessed as same was grouped together with Item 3(a).

Citation 1, Item 3(d) charges a violation of 29 CFR 1910.215(b)(9). The complaint alleges the employer respondent failed to ensure that the distance between the wheel periphery and the adjustable tongue guard on the Delta bench grinder used by the machinist was not in excess of one-fourth of an inch. The grinder did not have a tongue guard on either of the abrasive wheels thereby leaving a gap of 1 inch. The violation was classified as "Serious."

Item 3(a).

Citation 2, Item 1(a) charges a violation of 29 CFR 1904.29(b)(1). The complainant alleges the employer respondent failed to enter a full description for each workplace injury on the OSHA Form 300. The employer kept no log of employee injuries and illnesses. The violation was classified as "Other." The proposed penalty for the alleged violation was Zero Dollars (\$.00).

Citation 2, Item 1(b) charges a violation of 29 CFR 1904.32(a)(3). The complainant alleges the employer respondent failed to certify (through signature) the annual summary of work related illnesses and injuries. The violation was classified as "Other." The proposed penalty for the alleged violation was Zero Dollars (\$.00).

Counsel for the Chief Administrative Officer presented testimony and evidence with regard to the alleged violations. Safety and Health Representative (SHR) John Olaechea, an industrial hygienist, testified that on or about August 8, 2006 he first inspected the principal place of business of respondent located at 5335 Wynn Road, Las Vegas, Nevada. The SHR returned to the work site on two other occasions to follow up the initial inspection and ultimately issued the above referenced citations on October 13, 2006 as a result of code violations discovered at the respondents place of employment. The SHR identified documentary and photographic exhibits which were admitted in evidence. Mr. Olaechea testified that he conducted his inspections and requested documents and records from the employer as specifically required under applicable provisions of the above-referenced standards. However no documents were produced in furtherance of the applicable provisions by the

respondent to satisfy the standards. The SHR testified that while the respondent "had a lot of paper" on the premises, its representatives could not locate or produce the appropriate documents to satisfy the subject standard. Mr. Olaechea testified that employee representatives Hartley and Irish informed him that disruptions in operations exited at the time of the inspection due to a labor dispute and the documentation could not be located to satisfy the SHR requests in furtherance of the standards.

At Citation 1, Item 1(a) referencing 29 CFR 1910.132(f)(4) the SHR repeatedly requested but could not obtain from the respondent, assurance that the employees received training on the use of personal protective equipment (PPE). Specifically, the employer failed to verify said training through a written certification which, in accordance with the standard, must contain the name of the employee trained, the dates of training and the subject of the certification.

At Citation 1, Item 1(b) referencing 29 CFR 1910.133(a)(1), Mr. Olaechea observed a machinist operating both a bench grinder and a drill press without adequate eye protection as required by the standard. The SHR testified that the machinist, Mr. Peter Varga, was wearing only eye glasses with corrective lenses and without side shields while engaged in the operation of machinery. The SHR further testified that the machine was not equipped with guarding equipment as required by the standard. He testified that he observed a sign posted on the premises requiring the use of eye protection but could not verify any employer assurance or enforcement of the signage requirement. Mr. Olaechea testified that he observed the same employee operating machinery on two occasions

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without eye protection. He noted that employer logs reflected "a number" of eye injuries in the company history at the plant site testifying that it demonstrated to him that the employer had knowledge of the need for appropriate eye protection as required by the standard.

Citation 1, Item 1(c) referencing 29 CFR 1910.134(e)(1) charged the employer failed to ensure that employees were required to use a tight-fitting half-face respirator which had been medically evaluated and cleared for individual employee use in the workplace while performing work related duties. Exhibit 1 depicted two photos of an employee using a respirator with cracks clearly visible. SHR issued the referenced citation for insufficient training in use of the respirators based on his direct observation of the employee using a defective respirator. Mr. Olaechea testified that the standard required medical evaluation of any employee who needs to use a respirator for work related duties. He stated that the reasoning behind the standard was based upon the codified safety need to know that an employee does not have some medical problem which could make respirator use worse than non-use. Mr. Olaechea could find no evidence that the employer provided the medical evaluation nor a statement or claim by the employer representative that same had been actually done.

Citation 1, Item 1(d) referencing 29 CFR 1910.134(e)(6)(1) charged the employer with failure to obtain written documentation from a PLHCP for each employee required or using a tight fitting respirator relating to that employee's ability to use such a respirator. This violation, similar to Item 1(c), requires written documentation from a healthcare professional that employees know how

to use such a respirator.

Citation 1, Item 1(e) referencing 29 CFR 1910.134(f) (2) cited failure of the employer to ensure that the welder/painter employees using tight-fitting facepiece respirators to protect themselves from hazardous chemicals at the work site had been fit tested prior to initial use and/or at least annually thereafter. Again, similar to the above-reference items regarding respirators, the SHR could obtain no documentation, evidence or even assurance that the employer effectively trained its employees in respirator use. The SHR determined during his investigation that some employees did not demonstrate knowledge of training. Further there were no employee records of respirator protection training as required by the standard.

Citation 1, Item 1(f) referencing 29 CFR 1910.134(k)(1) charged the employer with failure to provide effective training and ensure that each employee who wore a respirator could demonstrate knowledge of the basic elements of respirators. Mr. Olaechea testified that he confirmed during his employee interviews that employees could not demonstrate knowledge of the training nor were there any records available to verify same as required by the standard.

Mr. Olaechea testified that he grouped the penalty at Citation 1, Item 1(a) through 1(f) which he classified as serious and assessed a total penalty of \$800.00. He stated that the serious classification was based upon the potential for a serious injury or death in furtherance of the violations. He further testified that he observed employees actually working in violation of the afore referenced items at Citation 1, and further referenced the

photographic and related exhibits to support the testimony. The SHR reduced the penalties from the guideline amount of \$7,000 based upon probability, the size of the employer, and other established credit factors. Exhibit 1 includes the penalty calculation methodology to demonstrate same to be in compliance with the accepted OSHES guidelines. Finally, as to the afore referenced citation items, Mr. Olaechea testified that the employer knew or should have known of the violations, specifically Ms. Irish and Mr. Hartley, given their personal involvement in the business and the comparatively small size of the operation. In this regard he testified that as to the respirator violations, Ms. Irish demonstrated to him a cabinet full of respirators indicating to him that she was aware of the need for this type of protection but neglected compliance with the actual mandates of each specific item in the particular standards.

Mr. Olaechea went on to testify with regard to Citation 1, Item 2(a) referencing 29 CFR 1910.151(c) charging the employer failed to provide suitable facilities for flushing of the eyes and body for employees exposed to injurious corrosive materials. Particularly the SHR found that the eyewash station in the metal treatment area at the plant site was covered with storage materials and/or other debris and therefore inaccessible for use by employees during a time of need. He identified the photographic evidence in Exhibit 1 to demonstrate the lack of accessability to the eyewash He testified that based on his investigation and station. interviews, some employees were not aware of the actual location of the said eyewash station. Mr. Olaechea was shown an eyewash "squeeze bottle" by the employer representative which was inadequate to satisfy the eyewash station standard cited. He testified that

the standard requires a minimum steady flow rate all as set forth in the specific terms.

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At Citation 1, Item 2(b) referencing 29 CFR 1910.1200(e)(1)(i) the employer was charged with a failure to ensure that employees had access to a list of hazardous chemicals using an identity referenced on a corresponding material safety data sheet (MSDS). He testified that because the employees did not have access to such a list of the hazardous chemicals (no MSDS on the site), there was no verifiable ability for employees to understand and appreciate injuries relating to hazardous or corrosive chemicals located at the worksite. He testified that the employer did have a safety program for same but not fully implemented based upon an inability to produce the MSDS as required by the standard.

At Citation 1, Item 2(c) referencing 29 CFR 1910.1200(h)(1) the SHR found a violation based on the employer's failure to ensure that the hazard communication program was fully implemented. He could find no evidence of adequate training on the hazards of the chemicals used in the workplace and the use and location of the MSDS. The proposed penalty at \$800.00 was grouped to include all of the subject items referenced under Citation 1, Item 2 and the The SHR testified that given all credits and benefits subparts. similar to that referenced hereinabove, the penalty was substantially reduced to the assessed total of \$800.00.

Citation 1, Item 3(a) referencing 29 CFR 1910.212(a)(3)(ii) charged the employer failed to ensure that the points of operation on two drill presses used by the machinist, Mr. Varga, were guarded during use to protect him and other employees using same from the potential hazard of moving parts and flying metal particles. The SHR

observed that employees failed to use the removable guard while boring holes in metal. He testified that there were no guards on the two drill presses observed during operations. Photographic Exhibit 1 at page 43 depicted the press used to drill parts and shows no guard in place. Mr. Olaechea testified that he was by an employee during his interview informed that the company owns the required guard but it was not on the machine during the inspection. The machinist employee informed the SHR that he does not always use the guard while performing his duties. The SHR testified he observed the employee using the machine without a guard and without safety glasses.

Citation 1, Item 3(b) referencing 29 CFR 1910.215(a)(2) charges the employer failed to provide a guard for the end (sides) of a Delta bench grinder used by a machinist thereby exposing him to the potential hazard of flying abrasive wheel fragments in the event of wheel breakage. Photographic Exhibit 4 admitted in evidence depicted the subject grinder with no end guard in place. Exhibit 1 at page 47 depicted the grinder without the guard.

Citation 1, Item 3(c) referencing 29 CFR 1910.215(a)(4) charges the employer failed to ensure that a work rest was installed on the right wheel of the Delta bench grinder used by the machinist to grind and smooth metal parts. The gap between the wheel and the guard where the work rest should have been installed was personally measured by the SHR to be one inch.

Citation 1, Item 3(d) referencing 29 CFR 1910.215(b)(9) charged the employer failed to ensure that the distance between the wheel periphery and the adjustable tongue guard on the Delta bench grinder used by the machinist was not in excess of one-fourth of an

inch. The grinder did not have a tongue guard on either of the abrasive wheels thereby leaving a gap of one inch. Again, as hereinabove referenced at Item 3(c), Exhibit 1 depicted the grinder without the protection as required at page 48. Mr. Olaechea testified that the violations at Item 3 were grouped and penalties assessed based on his calculations subject of previous testimony and Exhibit 1 after appropriate credits were applied.

Citation 2, Items 1(a) and 1(b) were charged as "Other" violations. Item 1(a) referencing 29 CFR 1904.29(b)(1) charges the employer with a failure to enter a full description for each injury on the OSHA Form 300. The employer did not maintain a log of employee injuries and illnesses. As with other document requests, the SHR was provided no written documentation as specifically required by the cited standard which formed the basis for issuing the citation.

Citation 2, Item 1(b) referencing 29 CFR 1904.32(a)(3) charges the employer with a failure to certify the annual summary of work related illnesses and injuries. The SHR testified that a signature must be affixed on the appropriate form to certify the work related injuries occurring at the site. No certification was provided to the SHR upon his request for same during the inspection.

The violations at both Citation 2, Item 1(a) and 1(b) were classified as "Other" and a Zero Dollar (\$.00) penalty assessed.

Respondent counsel David Martin presented no witnesses or testimonial evidence to rebut the sworn testimony of SHR Olaechea. He commenced the presentation of respondent's case with an offer of proof as to what employee representative and company principal, Ms. Irish, would have testified to had she been sworn as a witness. Mr.

Martin informed the board that Ms. Irish would have testified that appropriate records and documents were maintained by the company in accordance with the standards but not available at the time of the inspection due to a labor dispute and disruption at the plant site. He further informed the board that Ms. Irish would testify that the documentary requirements are now in place and corrective action taken as to the remaining alleged violative conditions to assure compliance with all of the standards cited.

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At the conclusion of respondent's case both counsel presented closing argument.

The complainant argued there was sufficient testimonial. photographic, and documentary evidence to meet the statutory burden of proof to establish a prima facie case of violation of all standards referenced in Citations 1 and 2. He further argued that OSHES and the SHR did all they could to cooperate with a distraught employer who was in the midst of a labor dispute and gave extensive credits to the penalties accessed notwithstanding the serious nature of the violations. Grouping of the penalties was an added demonstration of benefit to the troubled employer. Counsel submitted that the sworn testimony of the SHR was unrefuted and based upon violations personally observed in the workplace, including employees using and/or operating equipment in violation of the standard and a lack of any documentary evidence whatsoever to satisfy the basic requirements of the applicable cited standards.

Respondent argued that because of the evidence and nature of a strike atmosphere, respondent should not be burdened with full responsibility under the cited standards.

Counsel argued that during cross-examination of SHR Olaechea,

counsel elicited responses that there was indeed personal protective equipment (PPE) at the work site as demonstrated by the cabinet full of respirators. Further, the SHR testified that he was assigned the initial inspection of the work site based on an employee complaint of poor housekeeping records; but during the inspection he found no housekeeping violations upon which to base any citation for violation. He argued that the fact that there were PPEs available showed that the employees simply cut corners during the time of strike. He said the inspections occurred during a "unique snapshot in time when the shop was in disarray." He reminded the board that the SHR testified that he found "lots of paper" on the site albeit the employer's inability during a time of stress to produce the particular documents to satisfy the "paper violations." He argued that the employer should be given some leeway for particularly those violations due to the overall labor dispute atmosphere conditions. He also argued the eyewash station was in place, albeit perhaps a bit cluttered but indeed there was a station at the work site to satisfy the standard. He concluded by requesting a reduction in the amount of penalties assessed because of the onsite abatement and in furtherance of the offer of proof. All Exhibits A through D offered by respondent were admitted into evidence.

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In reviewing the testimonial evidence, exhibits, and arguments of counsel, the board is required to measure same against the elements to establish violations under Occupational Safety & Health Law based upon the statutory burden of proof and competence of evidence.

In all proceedings commenced by the filing of a notice of contest, the burden of proof rests with the Administrator. (See NAC 618.788(1).

All facts forming the basis of a complaint must be proved by a preponderance of the evidence. See <u>Armor Elevator Co.</u>, 1 OSHC 1409, 1973-1974 OSHD ¶16,958 (1973).

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To prove a violation of a standard, Secretary must establish the applicability of the standard, (2) the existence of noncomplying conditions, (3) employee exposure or access, and (4) that the employer knew or with the exercise of reasonable diligence could have known of the violative condition. See Belger Cartage Service, Inc., 79 OSAHRC 16/B4, 7 BNA OSHC 1233, 1235, 1979 CCH OSHD ¶23,400, p.28,373 (No. 76-1948, 1979); Harvey Workover, Inc., 79 OSAHRC 72/D5, 7 BNA OSHC 1687, 1688-90, 1979 CCH OSHD 23,830, pp. 28,908-10 (No. 76-1979); American Wrecking Corp. Secretary of Labor, 351 F.3d 1254, 1261 (D.C. Cir. 2003).

A respondent may rebut allegations by showing:

- 1. That the standard was inapplicable to the situation at issue;
- That the situation was in compliance; or lack of access to a hazard. See, <u>Anning-Johnson Co.</u>, 4 OSHC 1193, 1975-1976 OSHD ¶ 20,690 (1976).

The sworn testimony of SHR Olaechea was credible and supported by the documentary evidence. Respondent admitted that the documentation to satisfy the standards was not provided upon request to the SHR or OSHES either at the time or after the inspection and issuance of citations.

The board further finds that the complainant met its burden of proof by a preponderance of substantial evidence. The violations of the referenced Citations 1 and 2 were proven.

The board finds there was no legally competent evidence to rebut the sworn testimony of SHR Olaechea or mitigate lack of compliance as to the documentary evidence required by the cited standards.

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Based upon the above and foregoing, the board concludes that, as a matter of fact and law, the violations occurred and the proposed penalties appropriate reasonable.

It is the decision of the NEVADA OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW BOARD that violations of Nevada Revised Statutes did occur as to Citation 1, Item 1(a), 29 CFR 1910.132(f)(4), Item 1(b) 29 CFR 1910.133(a)(1), Item 1(c) 29 CFR 1910.134(e)(1), Item 1(d), 29 CFR 1910.134(e)(6)(i), Item 1(e), 29 CFR 1910.134(f)(2), Item 1(f), 29 CFR 1910.134(k)(1), Item 2(a), 29 CFR 1910.151(c), Item 2(b), 29 CFR 1910.1200(e)(1)(i), Item 2(c), 29 CFR 1910.1200(h)(1), Item 3(a), 29 CFR 1910.212(a)(3)(ii), Item 3 (b) 29 1910.215(a)(2), Item 3(c), 29 CFR 1910.215(a)(4), Item 3(d), 29 CFR 1910.215(b)(9), and Citation 2, Item 1(a), 29 CFR 1904.29(b)(1) and Item 1(b), CFR 1904.32(a)(3). The violations charged are confirmed and the proposed total penalties in the amount of TWO THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$2,400.00) granted.

Board directs counsel for The the complainant, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER OF THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ENFORCEMENT SECTION, DIVISION OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, to submit proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law to the NEVADA OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW BOARD and serve copies on opposing counsel within twenty (20) days from date of decision. After five (5) days time for filing any objection, the final Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law shall be submitted to the NEVADA OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW BOARD by prevailing

counsel. Service of the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law signed by the Chairman of the NEVADA OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW BOARD shall constitute the Final Order of the BOARD.

DATED: This 30th day of May, 2007.

NEVADA OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW BOARD

/s/

TOM B. WATTERS, CHAIRMAN