



TOPIC RESEARCH COMMITTEE  
of the TEXAS RADIATION ADVISORY BOARD (TRAB)  
MEETING MINUTES

Austin-Health and Human Services Commission, MHMR Center  
Conference Room 164, 909 W. 45<sup>th</sup> Street, Austin, Texas 78751  
Friday, September 18, 2015 at 8:30 AM

1. **Call to Order**

Ian Hamilton, Ph.D., C.H.P., Chair; called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. A quorum was present.

Members present for the meeting: Robert Emery, DrPH, Vice-Chair; John Hageman, M.S., C.H.P.; Nora Janjan, M.D. M.P.S.A., M.B.A.; and Darshan Sachde

Members not present: Amy Clark

Other TRAB members present: Judy Raab, and Kenneth Krieger

2. **Introduction of guests**

Department of State Health Services (DSHS): Lisa Bruedigan, Jerry Cogburn, Ruben Cortez, Ray Fleming, Chuck Flynn, Richard Ratliff, P.E.; Stacey McLarty, Liz Speights, Karl Von Ahn, Shannon Quinn, Billy Duncan and Peggy Westlund.

Texas Railroad Commission (RRC): Grant Chambless

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ): Charles Maguire

3. **Adoption of the June 12, 2015 minutes**

Dr. Emery made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Hageman seconded the motion and the committee unanimously approved the minutes.

4. **Continuing Business**

**A. Update on rulemaking priorities**

Mr. Flynn discussed the current status of rule changes. Compatibility with 10 CFR Part 37, Physical protection of Category 1 and 2 quantities of radioactive material: Rule packet was approved by the State Health Services Council on September 10, 2015.

**5. New Business:**

**A. Proposed NRC Policy Issue, SECY-15-0094, on Greater-than-Class C (GTCC) and transuranic (TRU) radioactive waste at the Texas WSC facility**

Mr. Maguire, TCEQ, discussed the status of the proposal to change NRC rules for GTCC and TRU radioactive waste at the Texas WSC facility. The TCEQ Commission advised to move forward with stakeholders, including the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Department of Energy, to determine who has jurisdiction to license the disposal of these waste streams. NRC proposed three options to their commission:

1. State of Texas cannot have jurisdiction and only be licensed by NRC
2. State of Texas to be given jurisdiction at the WSC sight only
3. No changes

NRC recommended option two to their commission and a decision should be made in the next couple of months or longer due to complex legal issues.

**B. Results of information obtained on photon activation of the collimators of high-energy accelerator/teletherapy units**

Dr. Emery and Mr. Fleming discussed the research results of photon activation of collimators for the high energy therapy units and because of the half-life the accelerator can decay in storage. DSHS does not have implementation plans finalized and is considering adding as a registration condition versus requiring a radioactive material license.

**C. Assessment of the TCEQ proposed rules, Chapter 336, Radioactive Substance Rules, Physical Protection of Category 1 and 2 Quantity Radioactive Material**

Mr. McGuire reported the Category 1 and 2 proposed rules has been published in the Texas Register, public comment runs until October 4 and public hearing will be held on September 22, 2015.

**D. Update on decommissioning of the Sturgess in Galveston**

Mr. Cortez, DSHS, discussed the progress of the decommissioning of the Sturgis barge in the Port of Galveston.

**E. Identify any additional topics that need further research to be addressed by the TRAB**

Mr. Fleming reported NRC is performing a financial scoping study of how to improve financial planning for source and waste disposal to fill gaps between actual costs. Comments to NRC are due October 19, 2015.

**F. Identify topics to recommend be further discussed and addressed at future meetings of the Medical Committee, Industrial, Nuclear Power, Uranium, and Waste (INUW) Committee, or full Board**

Dr. Janjan informed A&M is researching irradiating food to increase shelf life for all produce.

**6. Public Comments**

None

**7. Summarize Committee meeting and recommendations for Committee Report and proposed action items for TRAB and for future agenda items for TRAB, the Medical Committee, or INUW Committee's**

None

**8. Identification of Agenda Items for next or future Topic Research Committee Meeting**  
Food irradiation

**9. Adjourn**

Dr. Hamilton adjourned the meeting at 9:05 am.