

TEXAS RADIATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
Ad Hoc Committee Meeting by Telephone Conference Call
November 14, 2000
Austin, Texas

The meeting by conference call was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Michael S. Ford, C.H.P., Chair, with the following members participating: Jimmy L. Barker, P.E.; Earl P. Erdmann; and Odis R. Mack

Guests present: Don Darling, representing the public; and Eddie Selig, Advocates for Responsible Disposal

Bureau of Radiation Control (BRC) staff present: Richard A. Ratliff, P. E.; Margaret Henderson; Ruth E. McBurney, C.H.P.; Doris McCormick; Cindy Cardwell; Art Tate; Thomas Cardwell; and Pete Myers

Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) staff present: Brad Broussard

The Ad Hoc Committee considered the issue of financial liabilities for abandoned radioactive sources and contamination. Options discussed were financial assurance, insurance, fees and a dedicated fund, and changes in radiation safety rules for well logging licensees.

A plan of action is being drafted for the Texas Radiation Advisory Board (TRAB) to further discuss and consider at its January 7, 2001, meeting. These points are being included:

Possible fees - a percentage of the annual license fee might be assessed and deposited in the Radiation Perpetual Care Fund (with a set cap), dedicated for clean-up of contamination, and used only if all other remedies were exhausted. This would require legislation. Rules would set what percentage would be collected through rulemaking involving TRAB.

Revision to well logging rules - changes to rules concerning sources lost down hole would require a company to notify and involve radiation control personnel from BRC. BRC would not direct the operation, but would require the company stop any operations deemed to create radiation safety hazards. This would require changing rules where possible considering NRC compatibility requirements.

Workshops on well logging and on financial assurance - TRAB may suggest that BRC develop regulatory workshops on these topics to educate and involve stakeholders in the process.

Attorney General advice - TRAB may recommend that BRC inquire with the Attorney General about the specifics of the Winnie contamination case. This would investigate if rule or statute changes are needed to close any loopholes in terms of liabilities for out-of-state operators.

The conference call was completed at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael S. Ford, C.H.P., Chair
Ad Hoc Committee

