



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Texas Department of State
Health Services

TEXAS RADIATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Friday, January 16, 2026
Scheduled to Convene at 9:45 a.m.

1. Call to order

William Pate, DrPH, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. A quorum was present.

2. Roll call of TRAB members present.

Members present: Roland Benke, PhD; Michael Britt; David Dutton, DVM; Mark Harvey, PhD; Joseph Markham; Joelle McRee, DDS; Darlene Metter, M.D.; William Pate, DrPH; Ken Peters; Suresh Pillai, PhD; Tim Powell; Kevin Raabe, REM; Sandra Ramirez; Bob Redweik; Jeannette Ruiz, M.D.; Darshan Sachde, PhD; and Simon Trubek, MD. Sanjay Narayan joined virtually via TEAMS.

Department of State Health Services (DSHS) staff present: Joann Harthcock, Gem Naivar, Walquiria Sanchez, Rick Croy, Dr. Timothy Stevenson, Brian Vamvakias, Kaylie Smith, Jeremy Tristan, Jasmine Mathews, and Robin Phillips.

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) staff present: Commissioner Chance Goodin and Thomas Hopkins

Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Commission: Steven Raines

Railroad Commission: Alisa Patterson

Advocates for Responsible Disposal in Texas: Brian Christian

Texas Division of Emergency Management: Jason Johnson

Guests:

Rick Jacobi

3. Review, discuss, and take possible action concerning the amendment and approval of the October 10, 2025, meeting minutes

Dr. Benke mentioned that his name was listed as Mr. Benke instead of Dr. Benke in items 7A and 7F. He then motioned to approve the minutes with the correction of his name. Dr. Metter seconded the motion. All approved.

4. Public Comments

None.

5. TRAB Committee Reports and Recommendations

A. Industrial, Nuclear Power, Uranium, and Waste Committee

Mr. Peters provided an overview of the INUW Committee meeting.

Medical Committee

Dr. Metter provided an overview of the Medical Committee meeting.

6. Program Reports

A. Railroad Commission of Texas

Alisa Patterson discussed the program report and gave some updates.

B. Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Chance Goodin discussed the program report and gave some updates.

C. Texas Department of State Health Services

Joann Harthcock discussed the program report.

D. Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Commission (TLLRWDCC)

Stephen Raines discussed the program report.

E. Waste Control Specialists (WCS)

There was no one present from WCS.

F. U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) – TCEQ Commissioner Jarred Shaffer, State Liaison Officer

Mr. Shaffer gave an update on the NRC.

7. Routine and Continuing Business

A. Recognition of TRAB members' excused absence from this meeting

Sam Kannappan and Sanjay Narayan had excused absences. Dr. Metter motioned to approve these absences. Mr. Markham seconded the motion. All approved.

B. Update of DSHS Rules

Mr. Vamvakias gave updates on these rule revisions, which were included in the DSHS report.

8. New Business

A. Million Person Study

Dr. Lawrence Dauer of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center gave a presentation on this study.

B. Update on Executive Order 14300

Ms. Harthcock gave an update on this topic.

C. How the Board Can Help the State of Texas Be a Leader in the New Nuclear Renaissance Update

Dr. Pate shared the ideas that were mentioned at the last meeting. Mr. Shaffer gave an overview of the Texas Advanced Nuclear Office (TANEO) and their functions.

D. Election for Vice Chair and Secretary of the TRAB

There were two members of the board nominated for Vice Chair: Tim Powell and Sam Kannappan. An election was held, and the board voted to re-elect Tim Powell as the Vice Chair. Joseph Markham was nominated for secretary of the board. He agreed to accept the position.

9. Identification of Agenda Items and topics for next or future TRAB or TRAB Committee Meetings

- Executive Order 14301, Reforming Nuclear Reactor Testing at the Department of Energy, Update
- Occupational Annual Dose Limit to the Lens of the Eye Position Statement Update
- Update from Dr. Dutton on the Screw Worm Impact on the Environment
- Update on the Research and Development in Sterile Insect Technology Using E-Beam Technology by Dr. Pillai for the Full TRAB.

10. Adjourn

Dr. Metter motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Britt seconded the motion. All agreed. Dr. Pate adjourned the meeting at 10:48 am.