

TEXAS RADIATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Friday, January 20, 2023
Scheduled to Convene at 10:45 a.m.

1. Call to order

William Pate, Ph.D., Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:46 a.m. A quorum was present.

2. Roll call of TRAB members present.

Members present: Michael Britt; Charles Cavnor; John Hageman, M.S., C.H.P.; Darlene Metter, M.D.; Sanjay Narayan; William Pate, Ph.D.; Doug Posey, DVM; Tim Powell; Kevin Raabe, REM; Bob Redweik; Darshan Sachde, Ph.D.; and Mark Silberman, M.D.

Department of State Health Services (DSHS) staff present: Lisa Bruedigan, Gem Naivar, John Pavlica, Ida Murguia, Kaylie Smith, Karl Von Ahn

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) staff present: Commissioner Bobby Janecka, Ashley Forbes, and Chance Goodin

Texas Railroad Commission (RRC) staff present: Christine Peters

Guests present: David Carlson, Waste Control Specialists; Eddie Selig and Brian Christian, Advocates for Responsible Disposal in Texas; Cristina Madrid, State Energy Conservation Office; and Jason Johnson and Luke Cogburn, TDEM

3. Review and, as needed, discuss and take possible action concerning amendment and approval of the minutes of the September 16, 2022, meeting

Dr. Metter motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. Britt seconded the motion, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

4. Public Comments

None.

5. TRAB Committee Reports and Recommendations

A. Industrial, Nuclear Power, Uranium and Waste Committee

Dr. Sachde provided an overview of the INUW Committee meeting.

B. Medical Committee

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

C. Topic Research Committee

Dr. Sachde provided an overview of the Topic Research Committee meeting.

6. Program Reports

A. Railroad Commission of Texas

Christine Peters discussed the program report.

B. Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Chance Goodin discussed the program report. TCEQ hosted an NRC training for Uranium Recovery in November in their Corpus Christi regional office with a site visit at Alta Mesa. Chance also discussed the IEC report. TCEQ is waiting on Weston's contractor report. The NRC is reviewing the draft report, and TCEQ expects to get that report back around the first of March.

C. Texas Department of State Health Services

Ms. Bruedigan discussed the program report. She also reported that the new commissioner for DSHS is Dr. Jennifer Shuford as of the end of December. The 88th Legislative Session has begun, and there have not been any direct bills that will impact the radiation program. DSHS has received one minor bill for bill analysis that talks about recognition for out-of-state licenses for active members of the military.

DSHS met with the government accountability office two weeks ago. They are looking into Americium 241 Category I & II disposal and foreign source issues. They met with DSHS, and they are also in the state this month to visit various sites of some licensees and WCS. They are gathering information to see what this situation's status is so they can give recommendations.

The National Nuclear Security Agency Office of Radiological Safety gave DSHS a presentation on a new product they are using with a couple of our Texas licensees. They GPS track some of our industrial radiography companies. They are working on modifying the Type B container, which requires NRC approval. They have this approval for one specific manufacturer currently. Still, they are working with NRC and other lead manufacturers of industrial radiography cameras to be able to modify them in the future. DSHS sees this as a win-win to have the ability to track these devices if they are lost, stolen, etc.

D. Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Commission

No one was present to report from TLLRWDC.

E. Waste Control Specialists (WCS)

No updates from WCS.

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

Commissioner Janecka gave some updates from the NRC.

7. Routine and Continuing Business

A. Recognition of TRAB member's excused absence from this meeting

Roland Benke, Mark Harvey, Lisa Masters, Ken Peters, Lynn Silguero and Simon Trubek requested excused absences from this meeting. Dr. Metter motioned to approve these absences. Dr. Posey seconded the motion. All approved.

B. Status of updating the TRAB Publications webpage

Ms. Bruedigan reported that the new DSHS website went live in mid-December. Kaylie Smith gave a presentation on the new TRAB pages.

C. Discussion on social media for TRAB

Ms. Bruedigan reported that we cannot post anything officially for TRAB under DSHS social media. We could do a TRAB article describing the Board and their actions. She found that you can submit articles under general radiation safety topics but can't list anything specific to TRAB about upcoming meetings, etc.

D. Update on Sunset Review of TCEQ and TLLRWDC

Commissioner Janecka gave updates on the review. The committee decided to table this item unless any major issues come up with the review.

8. New Business

A. Review and Revision of TRAB Position Statements

Dr. Pate mentioned that these statements were discussed at the Topic Research Committee meeting, and they will be working on developed action items.

B. Review of Draft DSHS Regulations and SME Comments

- i) X-Ray (Major Revision): 25 TAC §289.229
- ii) Laser (Major Revision): 25 TAC §289.301
- iii) RAM (Minor Updates for NRC Compatibility): 25 TAC §289.201, §289.202, §289.253, §289.255, §289.256, §289.257, and §289.258

Ms. Bruedigan reported that the chapters listed on the agenda are at the start of the rule-making process. DSHS did an internal review and asked for a review by TRAB and outside subject experts. These Comments were received and reviewed, and these rules will now enter the official rule-making process.

C. Position statement related to the staffing shortage of health physicists and the impact that may have on our various critical industries

Dr. Pate reported that the work group led by John Hageman put together a draft statement sent out to all of the TRAB members for review. Dr. Posey motioned to accept the position statement as amended once reviewed by DSHS Legal. Mr. Hageman seconded the motion. All approved.

D. DSHS rule revisions

See agenda item 8B.

E. Discussion of future site visits.

Dr. Pate mentioned that there had been some discussion of identifying a medical facility in Austin for the TRAB group to visit. Ms. Bruedigan stated that we would need to know the Board's interests. We could set up a visit with a radiation therapy department or a large medical facility. Some items of interest may include cyberknife. Dr. Pate said he would work with Ms. Bruedigan to identify potential sites.

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

A. Strategic Plan review

10. Adjourn

Dr. Metter motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Britt seconded the motion. All agreed. Dr. Pate adjourned the meeting at 11:57 p.m.