

1. Texas Radiation Advisory Board (TRAB)

DSHS Division: CP, Radiation Section

DSHS Support Staff:

- Gem Naivar, Environmental Protection Specialist III, Inspection Unit/Mammography Group, Radiation Section
- Lisa Bruedigan, Director III, Radiation Section

Board Charge Description

Provides technical guidance and advice on radiation programs to DSHS, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), and the Railroad Commission of Texas (RCT). The Texas Radiation Advisory Board (TRAB) aids DSHS by providing valuable experience and technical expertise to assist in rulemaking and formulating regulatory and consumer policies dealing with radiation issues. The board provided input on food irradiation, emergency precautions for radiation accidents, and radiation sources in medicine.

Recommendations for DSHS Commissioner or HHSC Executive Commissioner

TRAB made recommendations in the publication,

[*TRAB Position Statement on the Shortage of Radiation Protection Specialists*](#)

TRAB advocates the State's financial support for the recruitment, training, and education of Radiation Protection Specialists by:

1. Promoting academic programs for degrees in Radiation Protection,
2. promoting on-the-job training and educational classes for potential Radiation Protection Specialists, and
3. additional recommendations undergoing further review by TRAB.

Report of Board Activities in Calendar Year 2022

The board met the required number of times during the reporting period for CY 2022.

CY 2022 actions taken by the board, including tasks established by statute and rule include the following:

1. Reviewed the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) regulatory update to 336.357 and provided feedback to agency,
2. subject-matter expert initial review and feedback provided to DSHS on draft revisions to:
 - X-Ray (Major Revision): 25 TAC §289.229,
 - Laser (Major Revision): 25 TAC §289.301, and
 - RAM (Minor Updates for NRC Compatibility): 25 TAC §289.201, §289.202, §289.253, §289.255, §289.256, §289.257, and §289.258,
3. reviewed position statement on dose to the lens of the eye,

4. draft position statement on shortage of radiation protection specialists (approved in 2023), and
5. completed site visit to UT Austin Research Reactor.

TRAB reported the following recommendations adopted into agency rules and policies:

- TRAB asked DSHS to research and develop information related to Occupational Radiation Exposure of the Eye Lens. This resulted in a guidance document on the topic, which is posted on the TRAB website, located on the DSHS Radiation Section's homepage.

Recommendations for Calendar Year 2023 and Beyond

TRAB is recommended for continuation since it was created by the Texas Radiation Control Act pursuant to the Texas Health and Safety Code, Section 401.015.

The board reported the following anticipated activities in CY 2022:

1. Schedule quarterly TRAB meetings, which benefit the State and DSHS by assuring that the latest best practices in radiation safety are used to maintain radiation exposure *As Low As Reasonably Achievable* (ALARA) for radiation applications in human and animal medicine, industry, academia, and research and development,
2. continue to provide access for board members to increase in knowledge and experience to assist in rulemaking and formulating regulatory and consumer policies dealing with radiation issues, and
3. potentially reduce the risk of an increase in higher radiation exposures, with commensurate potential health risks to Texas citizens, through timely access to the Board's expertise on the application of the best radiation safety practices and ALARA concepts in the various uses of radiation sources.

The recent duties of this board do not result in opportunities to consolidate it with other internal or external advisory committees.