



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Texas Department of State
Health Services

TEXAS RADIATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Friday, April 21, 2023
Scheduled to Convene at 10:45 a.m.

1. Call to order

William Pate, DrPH, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m. A quorum was present.

2. Roll call of TRAB members present.

Members present: Roland Benke, Ph.D.; John Hageman, M.S., C.H.P.; Mark Harvey, Ph.D.; Lisa Masters, D.D.S.; Darlene Metter, M.D.; William Pate, DrPH; Doug Posey, DVM; Tim Powell; Kevin Raabe, REM; Bob Redweik; Darshan Sachde, Ph.D.; Mark Silberman, M.D.; and Lynn Silguero.

Department of State Health Services (DSHS) staff present: Timothy Stevenson, Lisa Bruedigan, Gem Naivar, John Pavlica, Walquira Sanchez, Brian Vamvakias, and Karl Von Ahn

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

Texas Railroad Commission (RRC) staff present: Christine Peters

Guests present: Steven Raines, LLRWDC; Brian Christian, Advocates for Responsible Disposal in Texas; Cristina Madrid, State Energy Conservation Office; and Luke Cogburn, TDEM

3. Review and, as needed, discuss and take possible action concerning amendment and approval of the minutes of January 20, 2023, meeting

Dr. Silberman motioned to approve the minutes. Ms. Silguero 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. He added that they are currently having a 4-year review of Chapter 336. There are no subsequent changes in this rule; they are just reviewing the rule. It is anticipated to be posted in the Texas Register on May 19, 2023. The comment period will be May 19-June 20, 2023. They expect the adoption of the rule on October 11, 2023.

Chance also mentioned some of the things that TCEQ has been watching in the Legislative Session. There has been much activity in the UIC program, specifically in storage and recovery projects. There are several bills related to these subjects.

C. Texas Department of State Health Services

Ms. Bruedigan discussed the program report.

D. Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Commission

Steven Raines gave an update from this Commission. They have rules currently in publication at the Texas Register regarding the management rule on the management of incoming waste that is imported. The principal changes are to require monthly reporting by those managing radioactive waste inside the state of Texas as opposed to semiannual reporting. Some changes clear up what should and should not be reported.

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 updates from the NRC. There are several meetings on small modular reactors from different vendors and different

aspects of them with the NRC. Commissioner Janecka has provided the NRC with points of contact as they are conducting the license review for the license renewal for the Comanche Peak operating site. They just recently had oral arguments.

Commissioner Janecka also gave some updates on bills being discussed in the legislative session.

7. Routine and Continuing Business

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

Micheal Britt, Sanjay Narayan, Kenneth Peters, 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 had been updated, and if anyone notices any errors, please let DSHS know, and they will be fixed.

8. New Business

A. Review and Revision of TRAB Position Statements

The various committees have reviewed three position statements: Understanding Radiation, Sealed Source Disposal, and Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel.

Dr. Sachde gave an update on the review of these statements by the INUW committee. He shared that this committee recommends that the TRAB retire the Sealed Source Disposal statement and the Storage of Spent Fuel statement. Dr. Powell and Mr. Hageman explained why these two statements should be withdrawn as they are no longer applicable.

Dr. Pate stated that there were cosmetic and grammatical updates for websites for the Advisory Statement for a Better Understanding of Radiation. Mr. Hageman suggested that we add a paragraph at the beginning of this statement to describe the purpose of TRAB.

Mr. Powell motioned that the TRAB retire the Sealed Source Disposal and the Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel Statements and accept the Advisory Statement for a Better Understanding of Radiation with the mentioned changes. Mr. Hageman seconded the motion. All agreed.

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 gave updates on these rule revisions and a handout was provided with these updates.

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

Dr. Stevenson and Walquira Sanchez gave some concerns about the last two statements on this position statement as related to state agencies. These concerns were discussed and several recommendations were given. It was decided to pull these recommendations together and form a small working group to make these changes to the Position Statement and present it to DSHS for review.

D. Discussion of future site visits.

Dr. Pate asked the Board if they still wanted to continue looking into these site visits. Mr. Hageman suggested we have a remote meeting at one of the power plants and include a tour. Dr. Pate reminded the board that the biggest challenge would be the Open Meeting Act requirements and budgetary restraints with staff costs of traveling to the site. Dr. Masters mentioned that it is hard for some to take the extra days from their patients to attend these visits, but having presentations at the meeting might be a better option. Dr. Pate suggested that we do a visit on the same day after the meeting for those who can stay.

E. 2023 Strategic Plan Update (All)

The 2023 Strategic Plan was reviewed. Dr. Posey made a motion to accept the Plan as reviewed and approved by the committees. Ms. Silguero seconded this motion. All agreed.

F. Licensed Medical Physicists Scope of Practice (Pate)

Dr. Pate gave a presentation on this topic.

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

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

10. Adjourn

Mr. Raabe motioned to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Posey seconded the motion. All agreed. Dr. Pate adjourned the meeting at 12:07 p.m.