

**DRAFT Minutes of the Radiation Protection Advisory Committee (RPAC) Meeting
14th Floor Conference Room
Rachel Carson State Office Building, Harrisburg, PA
November 17, 2016**

Call to order – 9:03 a.m.

Members in Attendance:

John Keklak
Eric Boeldt
Kent Lambert
Shawn McNeely
Paul Houle
Janice Wirth
Marian Wolford

Margaret Blackwood
Tiffany Whitcomb
Anthony Montagnese
Peter Smith
Joseph Och
Steven King

Members Absent:

Vincent Roding
Victor Rizzo

Michael Sheetz
Katherine Hetherington Cunfer

DEP Staff in Attendance:

David Allard
Joseph Melnic
Kristina Hoffman
Dyran Altenburg
Sharon Trostle
Laura Edinger

Lisa Funk
John Chipppo
Bob Lewis
Dwight Shearer
Keith Salador
Taylor Nezat

Guests in Attendance:

Kendall Berry

Introduction of Members and Staff:

Introductions were made. A special welcome was made to RPAC's newest member, Dr. Marian Wolford. Marian is representing the Pennsylvania Dental Association.

Adoption of Agenda:

Today's agenda was approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

Meeting minutes from April 7, 2016, were approved unanimously.

Mr. Keklak requested to release draft minutes to the Committee sooner than the usual two weeks prior to the next meeting. If there are action items, they tend to be forgotten until a week before the meeting. The Department will attempt to release minutes in about a month following each meeting.

Meeting dates for 2017 were agreed upon as follows: April 6 and October 19.

Open Floor:

Mr. Och wished to discuss and get Department approval regarding the use of a correction factor in determining extremity monitoring at the Geisinger facilities. The process was shown to DEP's Southcentral Region X-ray supervisor and inspectors, who were in favor of the use of the determined correction factor. Mr. King noted that Hershey Medical Center uses a similar correction factor. The Department understands the reasoning for using a correction factor, which is primarily due to sterility issues during interventional procedures, and accepts its use. The assigned extremity dose may be recorded directly on the individual's monitoring record or on an alternate log system. The Department will also solicit opinions from other states and national organizations.

RP Program Update:

Nuclear Safety – The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) recently moved into its new building. Some changes have been implemented with the move. The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is now called the Commonwealth Response Coordination Center (CRCC). The Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officers (EPLOs) are now referred to as Agency Representatives. Pennsylvania is second to Illinois in the number of nuclear power plants. If Illinois shuts down three of its sites next year as planned, Pennsylvania will be number one in the nation. There were three graded exercises this year: Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station, Beaver Valley Power Station, and Susquehanna Steam Electric Station. A Vibrant Response exercise was held in May. This was an exercise hosted by the Department of Defense (DOD) in which a simulated 10-kiloton bomb exploded in Pittsburgh, PA. The exercise coordinates DOD with other federal and state agencies and was successful in achieving its goals.

The federal government published an update on the Nuclear Radiological Response Annex. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will be publishing a new Protective Action Guide (PAG) manual shortly, in which the EPA is recommending new evacuation guidelines. Pennsylvania uses a 360° 10-mile evacuation plan; however, EPA is recommending only that sectors affected by wind direction should be evacuated, thus lowering the opportunity for unnecessary panic and potential harm to the public. For Pennsylvania to adopt this recommendation DEP would need concurrence from PEMA's Radiation Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee (REPAC).

The Appalachian Compact Meeting was recently held. Pennsylvania is the host state of this Compact that also includes Delaware, Maryland, and West Virginia. The Compact Commission monitors low-level radioactive waste. Class A waste is going to Utah, and Class B and C wastes are now going to Texas. The 2015 Low-Level Radioactive Waste Annual Report has been drafted and is undergoing internal review and approval.

Decommissioning/Environmental Surveillance – All buildings and towers at the Safety Light (old U.S. Radium) site have been demolished by the EPA.

There was an incident at PSC Metals in Beaver Falls where a radium-226 source was shredded, contaminating the two-story shredder. The waste was shipped to Ohio and contaminated two facilities there. It appears radium needles used in medical treatments years

ago were most likely the culprit. PSC Metals did not survey the outgoing shipment and consequently contaminated the facilities in Ohio. There was no contamination off-site, but there was contamination in the facility with a 5,000-sq.-ft. footprint. All operations at the facility were shut down. BRP is considering conducting workshops for metal recyclers.

There is a public meeting scheduled for the first week in December for the Keystone Metals Reduction site. This was a radium processing plant that is undergoing cleanup by DEP's Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program (HSCA) and BRP.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) used a contractor from Oak Ridge to look for sites with historical use of radium that could possibly be contaminated. The list was sent to all states. The bureau is aware of most of the sites on the PA list. BRP has separated the sites by region and will continue to gather relevant information.

Radon – The division continues working with the EPA grant for outreach. Radon Action Month is coming up in January; Public Service Announcements will be done.

The Lehigh County neighborhood found last year to have high levels of radon has now presumably broken a world record. Mitigation is occurring to correct the problem.

BRP is requesting the formation of an RPAC subcommittee to reach out to the entire industry on radon-related subjects. The RPAC Chair will be requested to submit a letter for approval to the Secretary listing names provided by the Radon Division to serve on the subcommittee.

Radiation Control:

The Health Physics Society is addressing a new concern regarding molybdenum-99 shortage. With the scheduled closure of the Chalk River facility in Canada, which is one of the largest producers of this radioisotope, another production source is urgently needed. The University of Missouri is proposing a reactor to produce this medical isotope, but it is still in the initial licensing phase with the NRC. Two other companies in Wisconsin are preparing to supply this important isotope to the medical industry, but it is uncertain whether either of these operations will be ready in time.

A large 400-curie cesium source was abandoned in Pennsylvania. Fortunately, BRP used the financial assurance mechanism for cost recovery for the removal of this source. The Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD) is currently working on SSR Part-S addressing Financial Assurance for high-activity sources.

SSR Part-H, *Radiation Safety Requirements for Non-Healing Arts Radiation Generating Devices (RGD)*, has recently been released by CRCPD. One item on whole body scanners for non-medical purposes was just published. These devices are starting to be utilized in prisons, court houses, etc. BRP has regulations in place that require Departmental approval prior to use.

A revision to the TENORM Study was posted to the website. Significant figures for all data points were made consistent and additional non-radiological sampling results were included.

The public comment period for the proposed Fee Package has closed. A number of comments were submitted, and an official Departmental response will be released. Overall, radon received

the majority of comments, with a large number being submitted by realtors. Based upon a number of comments, the Department is no longer going to require a “mitigation system tag” fee for all new remediations. That is, a “tag” will no longer be required to be included with the system installation. However, a \$50 mitigation system fee will still be required for each installation. These fees will be accepted on a quarterly basis.

Regarding the 50% radioactive material fee increase, the Department is accepting RPAC’s recommendation that medical Broad Scope fee category (7B) only be increased 25%. Mr. Lambert suggested BRP revise the text for Fee Category 7C by deleting “Specific License,” since all categories are for “specific” licenses. It was pointed out that the bureau adopted the same text NRC uses; however, BRP will accept Mr. Lambert’s suggestion.

The members followed with a unanimous vote to accept the final draft of the Fees Annex A as amended.

The Radiological Health regulation package was accepted by the Environmental Quality Board as proposed and is anticipated to be published in the PA Bulletin in January. Members will receive an email from the RPAC Liaison when that happens. Due to the extent and complexity of the proposed regulations, RPAC requested that the bureau hold workshops to discuss the revisions. The Department suggested that a webinar may be a better venue for achieving this goal.

The Department of Health (DOH) has reached out to DEP to participate and assist with the agency’s regulatory revisions. BRP suggested a number of revisions and stressed concerns and complaints from the regulated community regarding DOH overstepping its authority. DOH agreed that it will allow DEP to handle all radiation protection matters and will reference DEP’s authority in the revised regulations. However, DOH noted it will continue to cite against any policy, procedures or applications that were submitted to the DOH by a facility. DOH recommended that all facilities be made aware of this, and to correct any outdated requirements.

Four Information Notices Issued:

IN-2016-02 - SECURITY ADVISORY FOR LICENSEES THAT POSSESS, USE, SHIP, OR RECEIVE RISK-SIGNIFICANT RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS NEAR PHILADELPHIA, PA
The DEP issued this Information Notice (IN) to bring to the attention of PA licensees a security advisory from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The NRC has designated the 2016 Democratic National Convention (DNC) in Philadelphia, July 25-28, 2016, as a National Special Security Event (NSSE).

IN-2016-03 - PROPOSED RULEMAKING NOTICE: CHAPTER 218, FEE INCREASE
DEP issued this IN to notify PA licensees regarding the proposed rulemaking to increase the Chapter 218 annual fees for radioactive material licenses and to increase the professional fee (Hourly Rate) associated with certain full cost recovery licenses.

IN-2016-04 – PROPOSED RULEMAKING NOTICE: CHAPTER 240, FEE INCREASE AND RADON MITIGATION SYSTEM TAGS
DEP issued this IN to notify certified radon service providers of the proposed rulemaking that would increase the Chapter 240 certification fees and proposes to add a new fee for Pennsylvania Radon Mitigation System Tags.

IN-2016-05 – REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS FOR TRANSFER OF CONTROL OF SPECIFIC RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS LICENSES

The DEP issued this IN to bring to the attention of PA licensees the required information to be submitted to the DEP prior to a change of control or ownership for all specific radioactive materials licenses issued under Title 25 Chapter 217, which incorporates by reference 10 CFR Part 30.

Review of Medical Reportable Events (MRE) and Nuclear Material Event Database (NMED):

Joe Melnic provided a verbal summary of five MRE events and 14 NMED events and will provide written summaries of these events to the Committee separately.

Discussion of Issues/Concerns and New Initiatives:

CRCPD-issued SSR-Part H – Radiation Safety Requirements for Non-Medical Radiation Generating Devices. As discussed earlier, the next regulatory package the Department will introduce will be to update the non-medical device requirements.

Whole Body Security X-ray Scanners – Also as mentioned earlier, the Department received its first request for scanning individuals for non-medical purposes. The request is from Westmoreland County Prison. The Department will allow this procedure with a number of requirements, most of which were submitted by the prison. However, two additional requirements are that a Certified Health Physicist verify survey readings, and training hours will be defined. The Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) will be required to have eight hours of radiation safety training, and all operators will be required to have two hours of training.

Electronic record-keeping, particularly for occupational dose records – the Department encourages electronic record-keeping.

Open Floor

The Department announced that there is a new position titled “Radiation Health Physicist Trainee.” The position allows college graduates in radiological health studies to apply to the bureau for employment. In the past, only individuals with radiation protection experience were eligible for employment. This new position requires a degree or 20 credits in radiological health.

The Department has a new Acting Deputy Secretary, George Hartenstein. He was, and also continues to serve as, the Director of the Bureau of Environmental Cleanup and Brownfields. Patrick McDonnell is DEP’s Acting Secretary.

Adjournment – 1:58 p.m.