

RADIATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Minutes
February 8, 2012

Call to Order – Public Session

Paul Brown, PhD, chair, called the Radiation Advisory Committee (RAC) into public session on February 8, 2012, 10:07 a.m. in Conference Room 1E of the Portland State Office Building. Committee members and guests introduced themselves.

Members Present:

Brown, PhD, Paul
Chin, Peter-Jon
Elting, Donald

Franco, Janet
Reese, PhD, Steve
Riggs, Edgar

Members Absent:

Barnett, D.M.D., Douglas
Gilbert, Theresa

State Members Present:

Beauman, Rich
Briner, Judith
Cain, Dan
Carpenter, Todd
Desemple, Erin
Grater, Connie
Hess, Catherine
Howe, David

Jaqua, Matt
Kohn, MD, Mel
Leon, Daryl
Lut, Margaret
Oberoi, Sudhir
Wahab, Emal
Wendt, Rick

Guests

Bremner, Fred – Oregon Dental Association
Fletcher, Beryl – Oregon Dental Association
McLaughlin, Dave – Oregon OSHA
Stevens, Donna – Kaiser Permanente
Templeton, Shirlee – Oregon Institute of Technology
Zelinsky, Cheryl – Sanford-Brown College
Zelinsky, Richard – Interested Party

RPS Staffing/Budget

David Howe, RPS Section Manager, reported that RPS has one EHS 3 vacancy they intend to recruit for, but the process will not be started until after the annual legislative session is finished at the end for February. He also noted that we have lost some revenue from the tanning industry, but the X-ray and RML programs are on track.

Review of Minutes

Minutes from the October 2011 meeting were sent to the members for their review.

Motion

Steve Reese moved and Janet Franco seconded the motion to approve the October, 2011 Radiation Advisory Committee minutes as written. The motion carried.

RAC Bylaws Revisions/RAC Reappointments

David Howe reported that the Radiation Advisory Committee Bylaws adopted in February 2009 needed to be revised to change Department of Human Services (DHS) to Oregon Health Authority (OHA). The revised document was sent to the members for their review.

Motion

Steve Reese moved and Peter-Jon Chin seconded the motion to adopt the Radiation Advisory Committee Bylaws as amended. The motion carried.

David Howe announced that Dr. Steve Reese and Janet Franco have been reappointed to another four year term.

UPDATES

Civil Penalty Update

Rick Wendt reported that the Tanning Program has a civil penalty process in place for facilities that don't comply with registration payments or don't comply with inspection noncompliance issues. RPS is looking to moving this process into the X-ray and Radioactive Materials Licensing programs.

RPS Staff Training

Todd Carpenter reported that Radiation Protection Services staff is involved in external and internal trainings. The external trainings usually are with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission courses. The staff is now scheduled for internal training once a month for 8 hours to learn such things as emergency lab procedures and emergency response to radioactive material involved incidents.

Equipment Updates

Todd Carpenter reported that the Radiation Protection Services emergency response staff are divided into 3 response teams sometimes being extensively spread out during emergency response drills and we need an updated communications system. With our current radio communications system, we are unable to communicate effectively with other emergency response agencies. We are expecting grant funding to purchase a communications package in three to five months that will meet the FEMA standard for emergency communications.

Margaret Lut stated that it has been about 10 years since the X-ray inspection program have updated their X-ray measuring equipment. In the last few months, the program staff have been evaluating/reviewing different equipment and are close to making a decision to purchase new equipment.

Electronic Field Reporting (EFR) Project

Emal Wahab reported on the Electronic Field Reporting (EFR) project that RPS has been working on for the last few years. This goal of this project is to modify the efficiency of the inspection program. In the past, inspectors would go out in the field, do an inspection, and come back to the office to input the inspection data into the computer. The idea is to take your laptop and printers in the field and capture the data into the database. Hopefully, this will increase efficiency by about 50%.

Licensing

Radiation Protection Services is currently working on creating web based reciprocity notifications. The idea is that a reciprocity licensee in good standing will be able to get online, notify us when they want to come into the state to work, where they will be working, etc. The database should be able to confirm that the licensee is in good standing. They will then be issued permission to do so, and RPS health physicists will be notified by email that they are coming into the state to work. If they are not in good standing, then the database will send them a message that they need to contact our office for further action.

E-payments

Rick Wendt reported on the progress we are making on accepting e-payments for certification fees. It is currently set up with numerous state agencies, so the process should be relatively simple.

Oregon Board of Medical Imaging (OBMI) Proposal

Rick Wendt reported that the Oregon Board of Medical Imaging (OBMI) has asked RPS for assistance on deciding whether non-certified nuclear medical technicians be allowed to administer radiopharmaceutical injections under the direction of a licensed practitioner. No action is needed from RAC at this point.

Infrared Tanning Beds

Erin DeSemples distributed the draft RPS Enforcement Bulletin 2012-03, "Use of red light therapy (633 nm) lamps in tanning devices" (Attachment 1). This updated the committee on this issue.

Underage Tanning

Matt Jaqua reported on underage tanning. California recently banned tanning on people under the age of 18. Other states have also proposed banning tanning for underage people. The reason this issue has come to light is because of the recent awareness between UV exposure and skin cancer. He noted that currently Oregon requires parental approval for underage tanning, but no identification is required.

Motion

Peter-Jon Chin moved that the Radiation Advisory Committee support banning underage tanning and support the state in pursuing this issue. Don Elting seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Lasers

Judie Briner reported that Oregon OSHA contacted Oregon RPS to see if they wanted to work on a partnership regarding the possible regulation of use of Class 3B and 4 lasers in Oregon. Potential injuries include vision damage, damage to skin, etc. (She distributed material related to the issue at the last RAC meeting.) Judie stated that the Conference for Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD) distributed a survey asking what regulations other states had in place for the use of lasers. Twenty-four states replied with only six of those states having regulations in place for the use of lasers. She reviewed Texas and Arizona's program with the committee. After discussion, it was recommended to obtain more information about Texas and Arizona's laser program.

Fukushima Debris Update

Daryl Leon stated that the debris from the March 2011 Fukushima incident is predicted to be washed up on the beaches by winter of 2012 to early 2013. He reported that there has been involvement with several states to brainstorm on what will be done with the debris when it arrives.

Bankruptcy/Decommissioning

Daryl Leon reported that Blue Heron, an Oregon radioactive materials licensee, notified RPS they had filed for chapter 11 bankruptcy in late 2009. NRC provides guidance to states for licensee who file for bankruptcy. This includes that the company must maintain a radiation safety officer onsite and must dispose of the

gauges properly. In April 2011, RPS was notified that Blue Heron had filed for chapter 7 bankruptcy. In September, they liquidated most of their assets, but still have the gauges stored. They plan on disposing of them in March 2012.

Daryl also reported that in November 2011, we were notified that SP Newsprint has filed for chapter 11 bankruptcy.

The Aurora Uranium Mining Project

Daryl Leon reported that we are potentially looking into uranium mining in southeastern Oregon at the Aurora mining site. A company had surveyed the area in 2000 for uranium, but didn't pursue the matter. A new company is interested in the area, but hasn't proceeded with any action yet.

Radiation Waste Disposal

Todd Carpenter reported that waste management sites often receive radioactive materials in waste shipments. RPS has a contract with Metro for RPS to respond to those alarms in the Portland area. In other areas of the state, RPS responds to those alarms and there is no financial recovery to do so. RPS has stored those materials and to dispose of them would cost approximately \$6,000 - \$8,000. Discussion has ensued in RPS regarding fees/licensing for the waste sites.

2011 RPS Annual Report

The 2011 RPS Annual Report was presented highlighting what the program is about and how we fulfill our mission of, "protecting health and safety citizens and workers of Oregon from unnecessary exposure to radiation".

- An overview of RPS staff and internal and external training from 2011 was presented.
- RPS annual operating budget was presented.
- RPS staff presented highlights from 2011 accomplishments in the tanning, X-ray, radioactive materials, and emergency response programs. They also presented 2012 goals for these programs.
- The emergency response program consists of 3 teams of health physicists. They are trained to be prepared to respond to a radiological emergency with a 72 hour supply of personal items, PPE, food, etc. along with radiation equipment.
- Types and numbers of radioactive incidents occurring that RPS staff responded to during 2011 were presented.

CRCPD Medical Event Reporting

Todd Carpenter reported that an information bulletin was mailed to Medical Radioactive Materials Diagnostic and Therapy Licensees and X-Ray Machine

Diagnostic and Therapeutic Registrants regarding the CRCPD Medical Event Reporting System structure that has been developed for reporting and data tracking for therapeutic and diagnostic radiation misadministration from radiation machines and byproduct materials used in diagnostic and therapeutic care.

Therapy Inspection Update

Catherine Hess reported that RPS was going to continue inspecting facilities with linear accelerators machines in Oregon. There are 25 facilities in Oregon with these machines and 18 of those facilities were inspected in 2010. Protocols for those inspections have been developed, but will be reviewed for updates.

Handheld X-ray Device Update

David Howe distributed the draft “Request for Hand-held Dental X-ray Exemption: Aribex Hand-Held Dental X-ray Units only” (Attachment 2). Up until July, 2011 operators of the hand-held dental x-ray units were required to wear a protective full body apron and dosimetry for up to 24 months. After discussion with the RAC at past meetings, this draft exemption policy has been developed.

Grant Updates

- HSPR Grant Carryover – David Howe reported that within the last month, we received notification that we have received \$90,000 in grant funding. The grant will be used for safety equipment for emergency response teams, training for field sampling, equipment and updates to the dry lab and mobile lab and driver training for the mobile lab.
- RRVC Grant Update – Sudhir Oberoi reported on the Radiation Response Volunteer Corps (RRVC) grant awarded from the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors. There was \$25,000 awarded the first year to identify and recruit volunteers and \$20,000 awarded the second year for training volunteers. Radiation Protection Services emergency response teams consist of 11 members all in Portland. The intent of the volunteer corps is to have volunteers trained statewide in case of a radiological incident too large for RPS ERT members to handle.

OLD BUSINESS

Member Recruitment for Subcommittee for CT Rules

Margaret Lut asked for input on forming a subcommittee to develop/revise rules for CT inspections. She asked members to see her after the meeting to volunteer or suggest volunteers for the subcommittee.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

The next meeting for the Radiation Advisory Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, June 13, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie J. Grater