



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Texas Department of State
Health Services

TEXAS RADIATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Friday, September 16, 2022

Scheduled to Convene at 10:45 a.m.

1. Call to order

William Pate, Dr.PH., 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.; Charles Cavnor; John Hageman, M.S., C.H.P.; Mark Harvey, Ph.D.; Darlene Metter, M.D.; Sanjay Narayan; William Pate, Ph.D.; Ken Peters, Ph.D.; Doug Posey, DVM; Kevin Raabe, REM; Bob Redweik; Darshan Sachde, Ph.D.; Mark Silberman, M.D.; Lynn Silguero; and Simon Trubek, M.D.

Department of State Health Services (DSHS) staff present: Lisa Bruedigan, Gem Naivar, Jay Pavlica, Walquiria Sanchez, Kaylie Smith, Brian Vamvakias, 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

Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Commission (TLLRWDC): Stephen Raines

Guests present: Eddie Selig, Advocates for Responsible Disposal in Texas; Brian Christian, Advocates for Responsible Disposal in Texas; Cristina Madrid, State Energy Conservation Office; and Jason Johnson, TDEM

3. Review and, as needed, discuss and take possible action concerning amendment and approval of the minutes of the June 24, 2022, meeting

Dr. Harvey made a motion to approve the minutes. Dr. Posey seconded the motion, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

4. Public Comments

One person indicated that they wanted to share a public comment, but it wasn't included, and they didn't follow up. We will contact them.

5. TRAB Committee Reports and Recommendations

A. Industrial, Nuclear Power, Uranium and Waste Committee

Kevin Raabe discussed the committee meeting.

Dr. Pate touched on the two action items that were raised:

- 1) A presentation on the Cobalt Magnet Exercise that was held in Austin on May 2022 – It was agreed to add this to a future agenda once the final report has been received.
- 2) Developing a position statement to describe the fundamental importance of the health and nuclear physicist positions and the impact on critical industries such as the nuclear industry and healthcare – It was agreed that this position statement should be developed and that a working group would be put together. Lisa Bruedigan mentioned that this topic is being well discussed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD), the Organization of Agreement States (OAS), and the Health Physics Society (HPS). Over the past several months, there have been numerous presentations on this topic, and a grass root movement is being worked on.

B. Medical Committee

Dr. Metter discussed the committee meeting.

One action item for the full TRAB board was to approve the selection of a non-TRAB radiation oncologist to review the 25 TAC § 289.229 and 25 TAC § 289.229 rules. It was discussed that a formal vote would not be needed for this item.

C. Topic Research Committee

Dr. Sachde discussed the committee meeting.

6. Program Reports

A. Railroad Commission of Texas

Christine Peters discussed the program report.

B. Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Ashley Forbes discussed the program report. She introduced Chance Goodin as the RM section manager at TCEQ.

C. Texas Department of State Health Services

Ms. Bruedigan discussed the program report. She also reminded the TRAB members of the Texas Radiation Regulatory Conference that will be held November 3-4, 2022, in Austin, TX.

D. Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Commission

Mr. Raines reported that at the last commission meeting, they approved for publication in the Texas Register some definition changes for a contingent or exigent event and some changes to the rules for export authorization timelines.

E. Waste Control Specialists (WCS)

No one was present to report from WCS.

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

Commissioner Janecka stated that there were no items to report. He also mentioned that for those following Waste Control Specialists (WCS), the NRC lawsuit that the state of Texas is currently engaged in had oral arguments before the court since the last TRAB meeting.

7. Routine and Continuing Business

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

Tim Powell, Lisa Masters, and Michael Britt requested excused absences from this meeting. A motion was made by Dr. Posey and was seconded by Ms. Silguero to approve these absences. All approved.

B. Status of updating the TRAB Publications webpage

Ms. Bruedigan reported that DSHS is still in the process of rebuilding the entire DSHS website and has been given a moratorium that we are unable to make any changes to web pages unless there is an urgent need.

C. Texas Regulatory Conference Status Update

This conference will be held on November 3-4, 2022, in Austin, TX, at the Doubletree Hotel on I-35.

8. New Business

A. Update on Sunset Review of TCEQ and TLLRWDC

Ms. Forbes stated that there was a public hearing on June 22, and testimony was given by a member of the Uranium Regulated Community during the hearing. There will be a public meeting on November 10, 2022, at the capitol, where the Sunset Commission legislators will begin voting on recommendations by Sunset staff on the various agencies, including TCEQ and TLLRWDC.

B. Discussion on social media for TRAB

Ms. Bruedigan reported that she spoke with the communications team at DSHS, who would be glad to meet with any TRAB member interested in social media in order to discuss the process and requirements of any of the following social media platforms: Twitter, Instagram, Linked In, Next Door, and Facebook. TRAB members need to prepare a document,

and a form would need to be submitted to get approval. Dr. Pate asked if anyone would be interested in engaging in this conversation about the possible distribution of TRAB-related information through DSHS's social media accounts. Dr. Pate and Ms. Silguero agreed to participate in these meetings.

C. Review & Revision of TRAB Position Statements

The item was discussed with the Topic Research Committee meeting summary.

D. Election of Officers – Vice-Chair and Secretary

The Vice-Chair and the Secretary positions are open. Dr. Pate emailed the full board to see if anyone was interested in these positions. The only two who replied were Tim Powell for Vice-Chair and Lynn Silguero for Secretary. He asked again if anyone else was interested. Darlene Metter motioned to approve Tim Powell as the Vice-Chair and Lynn Silguero as the Secretary for the following year. John Hageman seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Dr. Pate also mentioned that he reached out to the committee chairs to see if they were still willing to serve as committee chairs for another year. Dr. Metter and Dr. Sachde agreed to serve as committee chairs for another year. Since Kevin Raabe has served several years and given the shifting nature and opinion on the nuclear industry, the thought was that it was time to move this position to someone more representative of the nuclear industry. The new chair of the INUW committee chair will be Ken Peters.

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

- A. Presentation of the May 2022 Cobalt Magnet (Dirty Bomb) Exercise based on the timing of the final report
- B. Form a working group to evaluate the potential to develop a position statement related to the staffing shortage of health physicists and the impact that may have on our various critical industries
- C. Review of DSHS regulations that are being drafted. Identify subject matter experts for initial review, and during future comment periods, the board will review and discuss these drafted proposed rules.
- D. Discussion of future site visits

10. Adjourn

Dr. Metter made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Raabe. Dr. Pate adjourned the meeting at 11:37 p.m.