

RADIATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Minutes
October 10, 2018

Call to Order – Public Session

Donna Stevens, chair, called the Radiation Advisory Committee (RAC) into public session on October 10, 2018 at 10:10 a.m. in Conference Room 1C of the Portland State Office Building.

Members Present

Stevens, Donna (Chair)
Bremner, DMD, Fred
Franco, Janet
Cyman, DVM, Juliana
Smith, Barbara
Young, Scott

Members Absent

Henrikson, Mandy
Reese, Steve, PhD

OHA Representatives

Howe, David
Wendt, Rick
Martin, Michelle
Carpenter, Todd
Smith, Judy
Mynes, Tom
Haskins, Hillary
Lind, Lee

Guests

Berry, Robert (Providence)

Introduction of Members and Guests

Radiation Advisory Committee members, Radiation Protection Services personnel and guests introduced themselves.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from prior RAC meeting

Minutes from the June 13, 2018 meeting were emailed to the members for their review.

Motion

Motion by Barbara Smith; seconded by Janet Franco to approve the June 13, 2018 Radiation Advisory Committee minutes as written. Approved unanimously.

Radiation Advisory Committee Membership/Bylaws

David announced that RAC member Juliana Cyman and Scott Young terms of committee service will expire on December 31, 2018. Both are interested to serve second full terms. Via Bylaws, a slate of candidates was needed for referral by RAC to the OHA Director for approval.

Motion

Motion by Dr. Bremner; seconded by Barbara Smith to nominate Juliana Cyman and Scott Young as the slate of RAC member candidates to the OHA Director. The motion carried unanimously.

David also announced that the current RAC Chair term is expiring December 31, 2018 and that Donna Stevens was interested in serving another term. In addition, Dr. Fred Bremner will complete his final second term as Vice Chair at the same time. RAC member Mandy Henrickson is interested in serving as the next vice-chair.

Motion:

Motion by Janet Franco; seconded by Barbara Smith, to have Donna Stevens continue as the Chair for a 2nd term. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion:

Motion by Barbara Smith; seconded by Dr. Bremner, that Mandy Henrickson be the Vice Chair. The motion carried unanimously.

RPS Staffing/New Staff Introductions

David shared that Lead Electronic Products Worker, Glenda Villamar, recently resigned from RPS to take another state agency position working with contracts.

David introduced new staff member Joe Enger who recently joined RPS as a Radiation Health Physicist (EHS). Joe came to RPS from the Arizona Department of Health Services, Bureau of Radiation Control where he has been for the past year and a half. His duties included X-ray, tanning and laser facility inspections and processing/tracking Registrant applications. Joe obtained his BS- Radiation Health Physics degree at Oregon State University and expressed that he was happy to be back in Oregon. Joe will initially do tanning and X-ray facility inspections and then be cross-trained to do RML facility inspections.

Acting Item:

David reported that a recruitment/interview process has already been initiated to fill Glenda's open EHS3 position. RAC will be notified when a replacement has been hired. David thanked the interview panel for their help with the interview process.

Variances/Rules

Variances/Exemptions

Correctional Facility Body Scanners – Rick

Rick reported that RPS received a variance request from the Clackamas County Sheriff Corrections Department to use an X-ray body scanner on inmates. RPS approved a similar request for the Washington County Sheriff's Office. Rick also recently learned that the Yamhill County Sheriff's Office has been using a body scanner.

Decision:

Rick approved the Clackamas County request and is working with the Yamhill Co. Sheriff's Office to get their device registered so it can be used.

David shared that the use of body scanners is an issue for some states because they are not being used for diagnostic purposes. Correctional facility body scanners are used to screen inmates for weapons and/or contraband when being admitted to the facility or after visitations with outside people (family, friends). Body scanners do not pose a health concern due to their low dose and limited use.

Action Item:

Rick will follow up with an informational letter to all County Sheriff's Offices in Oregon advising them to contact RPS if they are interested in using body scanners.

Repeat Rates with Digital Imaging- Updates - Rick

Rick shared his research findings about repeat/reject digital imaging rates. Due to the many different way of scoring the images, RPS can only require that repeat rates be documented, but cannot dictate how the facilities perform the documentation.

Action Item:

If a facility repeat rate exceeds seven percent or changes by two or more percent from the previous measurement, corrective action is required. The repeat/reject rate

is based on repeat clinical images.

Physician Assistants (PA's) & Nurse Practitioners (NP's) Supervising LXMO's Doing X-ray – Rick

Rick reported that the Oregon Board of Medical Imaging (OBMI) is considering/discussing adoption of rules governing supervision of temporary limited x-ray permit holders (X-ray operators/students in training).

Action Item:

Proposed OBMI rules would allow both PA's and NP's to supervise operators. RPS will need to develop new rules about required radiation use and safety training for PA's and NP's doing supervision.

Radiologists Performing Modified Barium Swallows via Skype- Rick

Decision:

Rick shared that a Portland Adventist Radiology Manager has requested their radiologists be allowed to perform modified barium swallows, via Skype.

The manager and radiologist representative were invited to make a presentation at the RAC meeting, but they did not attend. Rick has already informed Portland Adventist that RPS staff need to observe the facility set up and proposed process in order to properly evaluate their request and brief RAC.

Action Item:

Rick will contact the manager and radiologist again to invite them to our next RAC meeting. RAC requested more information and a demonstration.

Repeat Rates with Digital Imaging- Rick

Discussion:

Troy Richey, a dermatologist located in Eugene, Oregon, submitted a variance for his PA to use his facility's Grenz Ray device which she has been operating for the past 15 years.

Rick asked RAC members about their opinion regarding issuing a variance and, if so, what would be the training requirements.

Break

Guest Presentation

Ken Niles, Assistant Director, Nuclear Safety & Emergency Preparedness The Oregon Department of Energy

Ken Niles provided a summary report of the radioactive material shipments transported through Oregon – 1982 through 2017(Handout)

Proposed Rulemaking/Lunch Presentation (Working Lunch)–

NRC Rules Compatibility Package Review - Todd Carpenter

Todd Carpenter presented the Statement of Need and Fiscal Impact. (handout)

Proposed 2019 Legislative Concept to allow APRNs to Supervise Fluoroscopy (Update)– Todd

Todd reviewed new OAR language for the definition of “APRN” (obtained from the Oregon Board of Nursing).

Action Item:

APRNs will be allowed to supervise OBMI licensed radiologic technicians operating fluoroscopy equipment. OBMI will issue a permit to qualifying APRNs who meet new RPS OARs defining training requirements (using the ASRT Educational Framework for Physician Assistants). There will be didactic and clinical training hour requirements.

General Licensing Compatibility – Erin Desemple, License Reviewer

Erin explained the difference between General Licenses (GL) and Specific Licenses (SL). The NRC considers selected radioactive sources to be “general licensees”, only requiring registration (similar to x-ray and tanning devices). Oregon 333-102-115(9a) treats the same as “specific licensees”, requiring a full licensing process. RPS monitors quarterly vendor reports, which are then used to issue a Specific License.

Action Item:

Because NRC and many other states process these GL’s as license sources (to be registered), RPS is considering conversion of selected specific licensees into General Licensees. This would eliminate the need to complete a full licensing review process by staff and make RPS more consistent with the NRC and other states. RPS needs to analyze the financial impact of any change before making a decision.

Industrial X-Ray Rulemaking – Tom Mynes, RPS Health Physicist

Tom gave a report about convening an RPS Rules Committee regarding Division 122 “Radiation Safety Requirements for Industrial X-Ray Machine Operations” and provided a handout. The purpose of the meeting was to solicit input from industry stakeholders. RPS is proposing to consolidate written rules for industrial x-ray regulation by combining OAR Division 108, 109 and 115, into a new Division 122.

Action:

Tom will continue to work with Todd to finalize industrial x-ray facility RSO training requirements for inclusion in the new Division 122.

RPS 2018 Staff Training Update – Rick

Rick presented the current staff training matrix and shared how many X-ray inspections have been completed. During 2018, RPS has had inspector vacancies which has lowered the number of completed facility inspections.

Action:

Two new staff members are being trained to become independent inspectors.

Tanning Facility Enforcement Update – Todd

Todd reported that, due to limited staffing (funding), RPS is selective about litigating facility registration non-payment civil penalty situations. With resolution of the Lioness Holdings - Tan Republic case, another tanning Registrant with a history of registration non-payment, has been identified for possible litigation.

Action Item:

Todd will consult with our DOJ attorney about the situation to determine if it is prudent and will update RAC.

Radioactive Materials Licensing – Hillary Haskins, Lead Worker

Hillary reported that RPS changed its inspection frequency of portable gauge licensees from 5 years to 4 years. Seventy radioactive material licensee inspections have been completed for the year, which leaves about 70 more inspections to be completed by year end.

Change of Program Codes - Todd

The 2015 Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP) audit by NRC, resulted in one recommendation related to correcting selected RPS “program codes” tied to inspection frequencies. All of the changes have now been

completed so that the RPS codes are consistent with NRC Codes.

Projects - Rick

Rick reported that, as a part of individualized training, RPS staff have completed Root Cause, Transportation of RAM, and Advanced Health Physics courses. Because of more restrictive funding, NRC is reducing the number of training sessions offered to Agreement States. However, to compensate, they are developing more “hybrid courses” (combination of on-line/site-based components) and straight on-line courses. RPS staff have begun to take these newly formatted courses.

New Surface Pro 4 Laptops for Electronic Field Reporting – Rick

Rick shared that RPS has recently purchased/distributed Surface Pro 4 Laptops for our inspectors to use during inspections. The computers will increase staff efficiency when integrated with our new web-based registration program. They will work with WiFi. In addition, two Verizon network cards have been purchased for areas of the state that do not have good WiFi connections.

Public Health “Radiological Emergency Response Plan (2007) - Todd

Todd oriented the RAC about the RPS emergency response plan, saying that it is outdated (2007) and needs revisions.

Action Item:

RPS will be working on a review/revision.

Todd proposes to add a section that involves hospital medical facility and RSOs.

CGS Hanford Emergency Response Plan (Hyperlink on Emailed Agenda) – Todd

Todd spoke about the “CGS Hanford Emergency Response Plan” which is related to the above “PHD Radiological Emergency Response Plan” and invited RAC members to review it.

HAM Radio Operators/Licensing – Sharon Ross, Tanning

Sharon shared about her personal experience in becoming a HAM radio operator. The Technician class for Amateur Radio License is offered “free” to anyone over the age 12+, who has an interest in obtaining a HAM operator license. The class mainly focused on the value of amateur radio for emergency disaster communications. RPS will explore in training select ERT members to be HAM operators as an additional means for emergency communication. (handout with flyers provided)

RPS Open Incidents

Rick reported there have been 39 RPS incidents during 2018, including 12 medical misadministration, 13 scrap/waste alarms, 4 allegations, 2 miscellaneous incidents, 6 notifications, and 2 loss of control events.

Public Comments:

NA

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 pm

The next meeting for the Radiation Advisory Committee is scheduled for February 13, 2019 at 10:00 am in Room 1E.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Lind