

**RADIATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Minutes**  
**February 13, 2019**

**Call to Order – Public Session**

Donna Stevens, Chair, called the Radiation Advisory Committee (RAC) into public session on February 13, 2019 at 10:05 a.m. in Conference Room 1D of the Portland State Office Building.

**Members Present:**

Stevens, Donna, Chair  
Bremner, DMD, Fred  
Cyman, DVM, Juliana  
Franco, Janet

Reese, PhD, Steve  
Smith, Barbara  
Young, Scott  
Henrikson, Mandy, Co-Chair

**OHA RPS Members Present:**

Howe, David  
Carpenter, Todd  
Wendt, Rick  
Haskins, Hillary  
Pfahler, Thomas

Lind, Lee  
Leon, Daryl  
Smith, Judy  
Martin, Michelle

**Guests**

Berry, Bob, Providence

**Introduction of Members and Guests**

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

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from the October 10, 2018 meeting were sent to the members for their review, prior to this meeting. The October 10, 2018 Radiation Advisory Committee minutes were approved unanimously.

**Motion**

Janet Franco moved, and Steve Reese seconded the motion to approve the October 10, 2018 Radiation Advisory Committee minutes as written. The motion carried unanimously.

### **RAC Member Reappointment**

David Howe reported Dr. Juliana Cyman and Scott Young have been selected for re-appointment to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) Radiation Advisory Committee; the term for the appointment is January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2022. The willingness to provide his/her voluntary public services to provide advice concerning radiation safety to the Radiation Protection Services is appreciated by OHA.

### **RPS Staffing**

David announced that on October 29, 2018, Tom Pfahler had joined Radiation Protection Services (RPS) staff as an Environmental Health Specialist 3. Tom has a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Studies from Portland State University. His initial responsibilities will include doing tanning and X-ray facility inspections, and Radiological Emergency Response Team (ERT) member assignments, plus being cross-trained in Radioactive Material Licensing inspections.

Tom Pfahler introduced self and shared that he had six-year experience with the U.S. Navy in their nuclear program where he served as a Radiological Controls Technician/Training Division Supervisor and Environmental Monitoring Program Supervisor. He was responsible for radiological control training of 900 sailors, 138 civilian mariners, and 370 EMS/firefighter personnel; managing radioactive material storage, including large-scale inspections related to material transfers; and coordinating efforts with EPA/local governments to monitor radiation exposure for the territory of Guam.

## **2018 RPS ANNUAL SUMMARY**

### **RPS Budget**

Todd Carpenter, Licensing Manager, RPS presented the RPS budget overview from July 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018. This includes revenue from our user fee accounts (X-ray program, Tanning program, Radioactive Materials program); federal contracts (MQSA) and interagency agreements (Oregon Department of Energy, CGS and Metro). He then presented how the budget will look at the end of the biennium with the revenue projections. Todd emphasized the current budget number looks great but what RPS needs to remember is that this fund will need to carry RPS out for next 2 years. David pointed out when a section has a positive fund, it could be swept to be used in other section due to the lack of understanding that the fund is already allocated for use.

### **Electronic Products Program**

Rick Wendt, RPS Operations/Emergency Response Manager, presented the Electronic Products Program 2018 Annual Summary. He reported on the scope of the X-ray program and noted the top few noncompliance issues. He expressed last year was demanding having more devices to inspect than the prior year, yet it was successful due to everyone working collectively. There are 2 staff who performs MQSA inspections currently.

Rich reported that 690 inspections were completed (2,360 machines and 2,276 tubes). There were 245 notices of violations were issued and the top 5 violations were: lack of adequate radiation use and safety training, failure to register device, failure to properly maintain dosimetry records, equipment does not meet manufacturer specifications, and inadequate gonadal shielding.

### **Tanning Program**

Rick presented the Tanning Program 2018 Annual Summary. He reported 344 facilities were registered with 1368 active devices. 156 notices of violations were issued, and the top 5 violations were: Operator training, sanitation, wrong lamps in devices, annual timer test not conducted and annual emergency stop switch not tested.

### **Radioactive Materials Licensing**

Hillary Haskins, RML Lead Worker, RPS presented the Radioactive Materials Licensing Program 2018 Annual Summary. She reported last year was challenging due to the turn overs RPS had, but even with all the cross-trainings, all inspections were completed.

She also reported:

- Approximately 198 licensing actions in 2018
- 108 inspections completed during 2018
- Radioactive material incidents for 2018 included 44 RML related, 14 Medical events and 1 Abnormal occurrence.

Hillary reported in 2018 RPS staff participated in the Columbia Generating Station (CGS) Drill, Civil Support Team/Army Group North exercise, Pathfinder Oregon Emergency Registry of Volunteers exercise and was evaluated by the FEMA to make sure RPS team is adequate and understand their role.

### **RPS Staff Training/Personnel Changes**

Rick added additional trainings RPS had participated in 2018:

- OSU Hazmat training, NRC Root Cause, NRC Transportation of RAM, NRC Environmental Monitoring, RPS/CST Interagency training and US Army North Evaluated Exercise for 102<sup>nd</sup>

Rick also reported 3 Environmental Health Specialist left RPS last year but was able fill the 3 positions rather promptly.

### **2019 RPS Priorities**

David listed the RPS priorities:

Drone Fleet, Laboratory Equipment, Emergency Response Equipment, Development of web based RML Inspection program and Update the Public Health Radiological Emergency Response Plan

### **BREAK**

### **Variances/Rules/Statutes**

Rick first defined the term Variance for clarity and listed the variance requests RPS recently received. Rick reported Radiation Advisory Committee's recommendations may be needed to make the final decision.

- VCA NW Veterinary Specialist - Request approval of ARRT registered CT Technologist to provide Radiation Use and Safety Training and Equipment Application Training. With the 12 years of experience and prior trainings this specialist had, as an agency RPS has approved to teach the course.
- Wallowa County Health Care District – Request to waive the requirement for non-radiologist practitioners to take the authority approval fluoroscopy training course.

### **Motion**

Barbara Smith moved to recommend denying the request, and Janet Franco seconded a motion to recommend denying the request. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Advanced Practice Registered Nurse's (APRN) Supervising Fluoroscopy Update**

David Howe gave update on Senate Bill 128; one of the main components being that while the nurses going through the needed training requirements, they cannot be supervising fluoroscopy unless the individual has an OBMI has waived.

### **Senate Bill 62**

Rick Wendt reported Senate Bill 62, prohibits employing a person that employer knows, or with reasonable care should know, is not licensed to practice medical imaging modalities in Oregon.

### **Senate Bill 63 PA's & NP's Supervising LXMO's Performing X-rays/RPS Rules**

Rick Wendt reported that SB 63 allows the NP's and PA's Supervising Limited X-ray machine operator's (LXMO) performing exams. David Howe added RPS's position is to define the training requirements.

### **Senate Bill 128/House Bill 2188 – APRNs supervising fluoroscopy**

David Howe reported that the SB 128 and HB 2188 is a twin bill which means that both has to be approved to result in single legislative badge.

Todd Carpenter added structured educational program that encompasses approximately 40 hours of didactic instruction that AART fluoroscopy examination content specification as well as 40 hours supervised clinical experience.

### **Senate Bill 283 – Wireless Technology Info Distribution**

David reported this SB's goal is to protect the Oregonians from unnecessary and harmful radiation exposure. There is no current scientific evidence establishing the causal link that wireless technology or devices use maybe linked to cancer and other illnesses specifically with potentially greater risk to children than adults. If this SB was to pass, RPS currently does not have fund to carryout this legislative mandate.

### **Senate Bill 444 – Small Modular Reactors**

Todd Carpenter kindly asking Dr. Steve Reese for a quick description of the small nuclear reactors. Todd explained, this Bill is to exempt small modular reactors from certain siting restrictions that apply to nuclear-fueled thermal power plants via community municipality and are incorporating community county through their political processes could restrict it in certain areas.

### **Work Lunch**

## **Program Updates 2019**

### **Electronic Products Update (Training Matrix & Inspections)**

Rick Wendt reported with so many new emerging technologies, RPS is spending much time educating/responding of the kind of training required to operate the devices.

Currently, RPS two fully qualified inspectors, Hillary Haskins and Daryl Leon. Tom Mynes is working on Industrial and soon Brent Herring will complete his training on MQSA.

### **RML Update**

Hillary Haskins reported there's 120 inspections to complete this year. With the tasks in mind, Hillary and Daryl has decided to institute a pre-audit to Division 125, Increased Control. Because the plans are complex, the goal is to review the actual plan and bring the findings during their inspection date. The licensees will be notified a head of time with a memo. Still working on the finer details as to how to receive the plans in secure manner.

Tom Pfahler, since joining the RPS, has volunteered to take on the responsibility to clean up the RPS Ram Room. Tom reported he is currently working on an action plan on how to remove the radioactive materials that RPS no longer need. He shared his first goal is to implement a way for a small amount to be disposed by utilizing free release criteria. Tom has already contacted the Department of Energy for the guidelines. As the project continues, Tom assesses that RPS will need some outside help.

### **Tanning Program Update**

Todd Carpenter reported ...

### **Tritium Batteries - Daryl Leon**

Daryl Leon gave a presentation about the Tritium. What is the Radioactive material used? How are these batteries used? Who manufacturers beta voltaic batteries? What's next for beta voltaics? And the Implications for Oregon were the areas summarized.

## **Emergency Preparedness/Response**

### **CGS Hanford Exercise Feb 19, 2019**

Rick Wendt reported this year's CGS exercise is off-year, which means it is unevaluated exercise. The RPS Emergency Response Team (ERT) will hold the exercise at the Blue Lake Park in Portland next Thursday, February 19, 2019. This site was selected for having all the resources needed to accomplish our exercise.

The Team will be divided into two groups in order to have a smooth running through all our sampling techniques: air, soil, water, vegetation, and produce.

#### Public Health Radiological Emergency Response Plan (2007) Revision Update

Todd Carpenter will be updating the Public Health Radiological Emergency Response Plan.

#### Open Incident Review

Rick Wendt reported so far there's four incidents:

2 misadministration, 1 scrap metal alarm and 1 miscellaneous (allegation referral from NRC regarding wireless technology radiation).

#### Modular Emergency Response Radiological Transportation Training (MERRTT)

David Howe reported RPS Emergency Response Team had dedicated 2 full days to MERRTT training sponsored by US Department of Energy, waste isolation pilot project for low level of radiation waste. This course is standardized and covers 16 modules covering radiological basics, biological effects from it through hazard recognition, patient handling, Transportation of Safeguards Material, Transportation by Rail to mention a few. The instructors were all fully qualified and made the training very enjoyable. The Hands-on experiences were great refresher for majority of the staff.

Rick Wendt added, the managers were invited to DOE Office for Secure Transport Briefing on February 11, 2019. Their briefing was focused on transportation activities, types of materials transported by Department of Energy (DOE), the enhanced safety measures used by DOE and the Transportation Tracking and Communication System (Transcom).

#### Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

The next meeting for the Radiation Advisory Committee is scheduled for June 12, 2019.

Respectfully,