

RADIATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Minutes
June 10, 2020

Call to Order – Public Session

Donna Stevens, Chair, called the Radiation Advisory Committee (RAC) into public session on June 10, 2020 at 10:05 a.m. via Skype Meeting.

Members Present:

Stevens, Donna, Chair	Hamby, David, Ph D., OSU
Bremner, DMD, Fred	Smith, Barbara, ARRT
Cyman, DVM, Juliana	Young, Scott
Berry, Bob, Providence	Henrikson, Mandy, Vice Chair

OHA RPS Members Present:

Howe, David	Leon, Daryl
Carpenter, Todd	Wusirika, Rama
Wendt, Rick	Martin, Michelle
Haskins, Hillary	Lind, Lee
Herring, Brent	Smith, Judy
Enger, Joseph	Mynes, Thomas
Pfahler, Thomas	

Guests

Slauson, Marjorie,

Introduction of Members and Guests/Roll Call

Donna Stevens began the meeting by explaining the protocols to follow for the virtual (on-line) RAC meeting, including self-video was optional, to mute an individual's microphone unless speaking, to identify self by name before speaking and to indicate when done. She also informed the attendees that the meeting was to be recorded (for accuracy in the minutes). Note: The meeting power points (including agenda) were sent to RAC Members and RPS staff prior to the meeting.

Donna shared the call-in number to the meeting for members in the event they lost the Skype meeting connection.

Radiation Advisory Committee members, Radiation Protection Services (RPS) personnel and guests did self-introductions.

David Howe reported that due to work circumstances Dr. Melinda Krahenbuhl resigned her position from RAC. RAC by-laws stipulate that mid-term vacancies are to be filled by OHA Director appointment. RPS management knew of Dr. David Hamby and, after consulting with RAC Chair Donna Stevens and Vice-Chair Mandy Henrikson, contacted Dr. Hamby about being a candidate to fill the vacancy. He accepted and was subsequently appointed by OHA Director Pat Allen.

Dr. David Hamby introduced himself. He has been a professor with the School of Nuclear Science and Engineering at Oregon State University for over 20 years. Prior to that, he was a professor in the school of public health, University of Michigan and a staff scientist at the national laboratory in South Carolina.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the February 12, 2020 meeting were sent to the members for their review, prior to this meeting.

Motion

Barbara Smith moved, and Bob Berry, seconded the motion to approve the February 12, 2020 Radiation Advisory Committee minutes as written. The motion carried unanimously.

RAC Appointments (Fred Bremner & Mandy Hendrickson)- David Howe, RPS Program Director,

David Howe reported that it is time to think about RAC proposing a slate of candidates for OHA Director appointment to fill two upcoming vacancies, effective 2021. Dr. Fred Bremner will be rotating off RAC since he has completed two full 4-year terms. He has been very important and vital to RPS because he represents approximately 700 dentists that are RPS registrants. Dr. Bremner indicated he will help identify a candidate from the Oregon Dental Association to represent the dental registrants.

Mandy Hendrickson, Vice Chair, who represents the Tanning registrants, will be completing her first four-year term December 31, 2020. As such, she is eligible for a second term. Donna Stevens asked Mandy if she was interested to serve a second term. Mandy said she would be honored and happy to do so.

Motion

Barbara Smith moved, and Bob Berry seconded the motion, to propose Mandy

Hendrickson as a candidate for re-appointment by the OHA Director. The motion carried unanimously.

David Howe reported that since the February 12, 2020 RAC meeting there has been significant changes for OHA-PHD-RPS, due to Covid-19. Currently about 50% of the Public Health Division is teleworking. As a result, RPS has created new protocols, information bulletins and exemptions for registrants and licensees and procedures to support teleworking RPS staff.

David said that due to COVID and a severe economy, there is an OHA “hiring pause” until June 15, 2020 for all agency vacancies. This means that an in-process recruitment effort to fill an open RPS Administrative Assistant (AS1) position has ceased. In addition, recent authority to hire an additional Environmental Health Specialist (EHS3) inspector has also been paused. Both recruitments are on standby, until further notice.

Covid-19 Effects on RPS – Administrative Inspections, Info Bulletins, RPS Lab- David Howe

David referred to an email dated April 30, 2020, which had been sent to RAC members regarding Covid and the resulting changes for RPS. At the time, RPS had been teleworking for five weeks.

RPS management was proactive in addressing the matter by getting laptops, cell phones, and software for all RPS staff so they could be seamless in moving forward. This allowed creation of home-based work areas to continue providing vital services.

With the onset of Covid, RPS recognized that on-site inspections were not feasible, especially for medical and dental facilities which were dealing with a surge in patients or suspending business operations. RPS immediately worked on developing contingencies.

In lieu of conducting on-site inspections, staff created “Administrative Inspection” protocols to ensure regulatory oversight by requesting the registrant and licensee to provide RPS with records and protocols demonstrating radiation safety practices and how training requirements are being met. RPS will conduct on-site inspections to only high-risk radiation practices

Staff also created protocols to allow for exemptions relating to the setup of

temporary in-door and outdoor X-ray “suites” and monitored other regulatory federal partners (NRC, FDA) to ensure consistency with their exemptions.

Electronic/Tanning Program (Reopening) – Rick Wendt, Operating Manager, RPS
Rick Wendt reported that RPS staff collaboratively assessed RPS’ regulatory role without needing to do on-site work and developed guidance documents to outline enforcement easement for required certifications, testing, and licensing. The staff have created checklists for administrative inspections of each type of facility.

Brent Herring, EHS3, RPS, shared his recent experience in doing administrative inspections. He found that one of the challenges is waiting for the licensees and registrants to respond to provide RPS with requested information as directed by the checklist. Registrants and licensees are initially sent an RPS letter explaining the administrative inspection process.

Tom Pfahler, EHS 3, RPS reported that the new process of verifying dosimetry records, training and registration status are working well.

Tomas Mynes, EHS 3, RPS added that, following an administrative inspection, subsequent inspections will be reduced from every four years to two years for dental facilities and that he had updated the database with electronic forms for the administrative inspections. Tom also shared that he has begun filling the role as a Safety Officer for the Public Health Division, Incident Management Team (IMT) which is managing the Oregon Covid pandemic.

Rick Wendt reported that up until Covid, inspectors were making gradual progress in dealing with the x-ray facility inspection backlog. He elaborated on how RPS has granted a temporary exemption for emergency mobile x-ray exams due to the Covid-19 response. Facilities are granted an exception by providing RPS with their facility contact information and submitting schematics outlining the physical layout of their proposed X-ray area to include how many X-ray machines will be used.

Barbara Smith inquired about how RPS is dealing with facilities that do not respond. Tom Pfahler said that because Covid is causing many businesses to temporarily close. RPS will reach out again after the Covid Pandemic subsides and provide registrants more time to respond.

David Howe added that one of our primary priorities, during the Covid Pandemic, is not to create an added burden to our licensees and registrants. Once facilities

begin to reopen, RPS can pick up and reinitiate onsite inspections and move forward.

Rick shared that, due to COVID, the FDA has issued a temporary stop order for all states under contract to conduct Mammography Quality Standards Act (MQSA), on-site facility inspections. As such, Oregon's 105 mammography facilities will not be inspected until further notice.

David reported that RPS has sent an informational bulletin to medical facilities allowing a temporary modification (extension) of machine testing time requirements for calibrators, fluoroscopic machines and CT scanners and the frequency for conducting radiation safety committee meetings. These accommodations should not impact patient safety.

David referenced a document dated May 26, 2020, from the governor's office, that included guidelines for reassuming onsite and community field work. It recognized the need for flexibility regarding inspection frequencies and sensitivity of doing unscheduled site visits or inspections. In addition, it outlined worker protection by reminding that physical distancing, washing hands, wearing masks, and checking ahead to make sure the facility is following Covid protection guidelines. This helps ensure that inspectors can make educated decisions regarding their safety doing field work.

Rick shared that in recognition of the negative impact of Covid causing mandated tanning facility closures, RPS is giving an extension of 6 months to pay registration fees without penalties.

David reported that RPS had received a request from the Governor's Office, Deputy Health Policy Advisor for an RPS recommendation on how tanning facilities, as an industry, should be categorized for reopening in light of COVID. The Governor's Office was interested in RPS' opinion whether tanning services should be considered a part of the personal services sector (clients offered services on an appointment only basis) or as being in the retail sector (accepting walk-in clients). RAC member Mandy Hendrickson described the standards and specialized protocols (i.e., personal care and enhanced sanitation procedures) that her tanning businesses were implementing in response to COVID and in meeting the Governor's three phases of reopening businesses.

Radioanalytical Lab Update

Tom Pfahler provided an update about the RPS Radioanalytical Lab's Covid

response. Quarterly water sampling and weekly air sampling have been suspended. As a result, RPS staff will only need to do minimal equipment maintenance reducing in-building time. On May 13, 2020 RPS staff held a meeting to create a new protocol for reopening lab operations during Covid-19, in order to provide essential services.

Break

Radioactive Materials Licensing-Inspection Updates – Hillary Haskins, RML Lead Worker, RPS

Hillary reported that Radioactive Materials Licensing (RML), is using the same safety model as the x-ray program by doing administrative inspections. The NRC has been very clear about their expectations for Agreement States to keep complete documentation regarding any actions tied to COVID and to make sure we provide good communication with the NRC as well as RPS licensees. Due to RML businesses starting to reopen, there has been an increase in licensing applications for portable gauges. RPS staff member Joe Enger, EHS, has created an electronic licensing process to help deal with the spike in licensing applications.

David Howe asked Hillary Haskins, if she had any projection for resumption of on-site inspections. Hillary felt that it will be important to monitor the progression of COVID cases and track data as a means to determine when on-site inspections can resume. Note: Both Hillary and Tom Mynes have been serving as Incident Management Team (IMT) rotating Safety Officers since the outbreak of Covid].

Emergency Response / Incidents- Rick Wendt

Rick reported on the number of 2020 Incidents and actions/investigations to resolve them. To date, there have been (7) scrap metal alarms, (1) waste monitor alarm, (1) report unauthorized transfer of ram, (4) miscellaneous incidents, (1) bankruptcy and (1) diagnostic medical event.

RPS Trainings/On-line Courses – Rick Wendt

Rick reported that because of Covid, all out-of-state travel has been restricted by the governor. The NRC has developed online training avenues, called self-study courses, which allows RPS staff to continue receiving training. NRC has developed an on-line course for the nuclear medicine course which uses a DVD for the Power Point training materials. Brent Herring, EHS, shard that he recently completed the training and reported the process worked well overall.

Rick added that RPS staff also have access to CRCPD on-line courses.

Barbara Smith asked about the cost of the trainings and if the on-line courses were as good as the ones in-person. Rick shared that the NRC courses are fully sponsored so it does not cost the RPS or participants any money. In general, staff report that course quality has been good.

Legislative Concept for Fee Increases- David Howe

David reported that due to Covid-19, the RPS Legislative Concept (LC) to make statutory changes and Policy Option Package (POP) to make administrative rules changes for increasing Registrant and Licensee fees, have been pushed back from typical timelines. David hopes to have more information to share with the RAC for the October RAC meeting.

Covid RPS Incident Management Team/Contact Tracing Assignments-David Howe

David shared that eight of the 15 RPS staff members have been involved in the Public Health Division's Incident Management Team (IMT) which is managing the response to the Covid outbreak. Hillary Haskins and Tom Mynes have been involved with the IMT since its inception as Safety Officers. Tom shared that it has been a very good learning experience working through the first few weeks with IMT in partnership with the Oregon State Fire Marshalls Office.

Joe Enger has been involved as a backup manager for overseeing the hospital supply and capacity system (HOSCAP). Hospitals log in daily to update information about Covid patients, hospitalizations, and availability of beds.

David added that OHA is also working to ramp up its contact tracing capacity. RPS has five staff who have completed required training to become contact tracers and they are ready to be activated for this Covid response function.

Todd Carpenter, Licensing Manager, RPS, elaborated upon contact tracing team responsibilities, Members phone individuals who have come in close contact with persons who have tested positive for Covid to educate them about the signs and symptoms of exposure. They are also asked to self-quarantine for 14 days. Resources are made available during their quarantine and a daily check-in, via email, text or phone, is made by the contact tracing team.

Covid RPS Priorities – David Howe

David Howe closed the Covid presentation by saying that RPS' primary mission during Covid is to maintain radiological emergency response capabilities and

sustain essential functions for its registrants and licensees.

Second Role Call: All RAC members present.

Exemptions/Rules/Statutes – Rick Wendt

***Kaiser Cardiovascular Tech Training Exemption (Review of 3-month Data) – Rick Wendt**

Marjorie Slauson, RSO, Kaiser, joined the meeting to present 3-month data from a recent exemption request which involved Cardiovascular Technicians (CVTs) being allowed to pan or move the table during procedures. Rick reported that the data review was to assure that there were no increased times or complications. Marjorie reported that there were no issues.

The original exemption includes three month and six months reviews so that RAC/RPS can consider making it a permanent exemption.

RAC member Julianna Cyman, DVM, requested more six-month data exemption information be provided before the next RAC October meeting.

***VCA NW Veterinary Specialists –Operation of Linear Accelerators by CVT- Rick Wendt**

Rick reintroduced a February RAC meeting exemption request by VCA Northwest Veterinary Specialists to allow operation of their linear accelerator (LINAC) by Certified Veterinary Technicians (CVTs). As a part of their February RAC presentation VCA committed to provide formal CVT training and education for consideration by RAC at the June RAC meeting in order to make a recommendation to RPS staff. VCA did not forward the requested information to RPS.

Motion

Bob Berry moved and Barbara Smith seconded the motion to deny the VCA NW Veterinary Specialist exemption request due to a lack of following through in providing the additional information.

Due to a potential conflict of interest, Julianna Cyman removed herself from casting a vote.

All RAC members voted to deny the request with one abstention.

Legislative Concept-SB 283-Wireless Technology Study Review Update-Hillary

Haskins

David reintroduced Senate Bill (SB) 283 which was enacted during the 2019 legislative session. The Bill requires the Oregon Health Authority to complete a review of peer reviewed, independently funded scientific studies on the health effects of exposure to wireless technology radiation in school settings.

Hillary Haskins, RML Lead Inspector, who has been one of two PHD Staff working on the SB 283 project, reported that OHA/PHD has recruited two gifted graduate level student interns with epidemiology backgrounds. They will be able to view the studies with a critical eye. One intern's focus was on cancer and the other's on kinesiology and ergonomic studies.

BREAK

Dexcowin ADX6000 Handheld Medical X-Ray Device Exemption Request – Rick Wendt

**Due to a conflict of interest, RAC Member Dr. David Hamby removed himself from the RAC virtual meeting during the following discussion.*

Rick Wendt reported that during the February RAC meeting the committee had requested further information from Dexcowin before making a recommendation to allow its use in Oregon. The committee felt the exemption request wording did not address a basic radiation safety and body imaging protocol. Rick has reached out to the manufacture with RAC concerns but no reply has been received.

The RAC decided to table this topic until the October 2020 RAC meeting.

*** Dr. David Hamby rejoined the meeting, following the above discussion and tabling of the topic. He was present for the below Proposed Rulemaking session.*

Proposed Rulemaking – Todd Carpenter

Pending Rule Making (in Parking Lot)

Todd informed the RAC that the two rule packages approved during the February RAC meeting have been put in the “parking lot” because they cannot be acted on by the Secretary of State office, due to effect of Covid. All rulemaking has been put on pause by the Oregon Health Authority, until further notice.

Use of Radiation in “screenings” Discussion (Request by Barbara Smith for follow

up)

Todd re-introduced the rule package regarding a proposal for amending rules within OAR Chapter 333-Division 100 to repeal the requirement that radiation cannot be used for screening or inspecting and corrects the inspection frequency of dental registrants from every three years to four years.

MOTION

Barbara Smith moved, and Mandy Hendrickson seconded a motion to forward a recommendation of repealing Section 4 of Oregon Administrative code 333-100-0020 that sources of radiation shall not be used for the purpose of screening or inspecting individuals for concealed weapons, hazardous materials, stolen property, illegal goods or contrabands. The motion carried unanimously.

*Extremity Cone Beam CT Device -training requirements

Todd Carpenter said there needs to be a discussion at the October RAC meeting regarding extremity cone beam CT. Rick shared that the Oregon Board of Medical Imaging (OBMI) had discussion during a recent board meeting whether CT credentials are needed in order to operate an extremity cone beam device.

According to OBMI rules, a credential is not needed to operate a cone beam CT device, but you do need to be ARRT **registered and certified**. That said, RPS does not have any rules addressing operators using extremity cone beam CT devices.

Barbara Smith asked about the need to have a CT certification in order to operate a CT device.

Bob Berry cited OAR 337-010-0011(1)(a) which states Diagnostic Computed Tomography: A licensee who operates computed tomography (CT) equipment, including cone beam CT for diagnosis, must be credentialed in Computed Tomography (CT) by either the American Registry of Radiologic Technology or the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board or have an active temporary CT license issued by OBMI.”

Joe Enger added that OAR 337-010-0011(1)(b) also states, “a licensee, with a radiography credential from the American Registry or Radiologic Technologists (ARRT), may operate an Extremity Computed Tomography (ECT) machine without having earned a computed tomography credential

Emergency Response

Drone Update

Tom Mynes, EHS3, gave an update about RPS working on a drone emergency response program. Tom shared that, prior to joining RPS, he had drone experience. Since RPS purchased a fleet of DGI drones in 2019, he has been busy working on a protocol focusing on how to properly set up and operate a drone. Last week, a presentation was given to RPS ERT Responder members.

RPS intends to model its drone program from the Oregon Department of Transportation, which has a 22-drone fleet program. Selected RPS staff will have opportunity to sign up to become a drone pilot and/or be a visual observer.

All Hazard Mobile Lab for COVID

David Howe reported that RPS was contacted by John Fontana, Director of the Oregon State Public Health Laboratory, who asked about the availability of the All Hazard Mobile Lab (AHML) for use in responding to the Covid. The AHML has been maintained by RPS for several years and is an under-utilized asset. David told John the AHML was certainly available. John indicated he would be follow up about using it.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Announcements

David Howe thanked everyone for their participation and requested feedback about today's Skype meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:21 p.m.

The next meeting for the Radiation Advisory Committee is scheduled for October 14, 2020.

Respectfully,
Lee Lind