

RADIATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Minutes for February 9, 2022

Call to Order – Public Session

Barbara Smith, Chair, called the Radiation Advisory Committee (RAC) into public session on February 9 at 10:05 a.m., via Teams

Members Present:

Barbara Smith, ARRT, Chair
Mandy Henrikson, Vice Chair
Scott Young, ODOT
Juliana Cyman, DVM

Bob Berry, Providence
David Hamby, OSU (Emeritus)
Dennis Wood, Coos Bay Hospital
Jennifer Frankel, DMD

OHA RPS Members Present:

David Howe, Program Director
Todd Carpenter, Licensing Manager
Hillary Haskins, Operations Manager
Brent Herring, X-ray Lead Worker
Patty Thompson, Administrative Support

Lee Lind, Administrative Assistant
Rama Wusirika, Inspector
Judy Smith, X-Ray Register
Tom Mynes, Inspector
Tom Pfahler, Inspector

Guest:

Donna Stevens, Kaiser
Elizabeth Ross, OMB
Nancy Bardon, Kaiser Permanente
Kimberly Earp, Adventist Health (503-287-4325)
Jen Lewis-Goff, OR Dental Associations
Rick Edwards, Benton-Franklin Heath District
Megan Seekins, Doctor, Blue Pearl Pet Hospital, NE Pdx
Jen Frankel, Dentist (503-826-4165)

Catherine Hess, RSO, Legacy Health
Angela Smorra, OBD (503-522-4601)
Valerie Lohr (404-323-3730), Blue Pearl Vet

Introduction of Members and Guests

Barbara Smith started the meeting with roll call. David Howe requested that participants give their names and who they represent. David also went over the teleconference procedures and informed attendees that the meeting was being recorded for accuracy of meeting minutes.

Approval of Minutes

Note: Minutes from the Oct 13, 2021 meeting were sent to the members for their review prior to this meeting.

Motion

Bob Berry moved, and Scott Young seconded a motion to approve the October 13, 2021 Radiation Advisory Committee minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

RPS Staffing – David Howe, Program Director, RPS

David introduced Patty Thompson, who joined the Radiation Protection Services (RPS) staff as an Administrative Specialist. Her initial responsibilities will be to work with Judy Smith to implement the new tube-fee X-ray registration database for collection of upcoming January 2022 biennial fees. Patty will then transition into providing administrative support to the RPS management team and section. In addition, she will fill a backup role for x-ray, tanning and radioactive material program fiscal functions.

Patty has over ten years of state experience in administrative roles including OHA Vital Records, the Oregon State Police Forensic Laboratory, the Oregon Employment Department, the Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles, and Multnomah County Sheriff's Office.

David announced that after three and one-half years of being an Environmental Health Specialist, Joe Enger is leaving RPS on March 1st, 2022. He has accepted a position with a health physics consulting firm which will be an opportunity for him to develop his professional growth and pursue being a Certified Health Physicist.

RPS management is also working with HR to fill the Administrative Specialist Tanning Registrar position and will be initiating a recruitment process to fill four Environmental Health Specialist positions, three new positions and Joe's vacancy, as a result of 2021 legislative approved fee increases.

2021 RPS Annual Summary

RPS Budget – Todd Carpenter, Licensing Manager, RPS

Todd gave a briefing about the 2021 RPS financial situation including information regarding the budget status for the Radioactive Materials Licensing, X-Ray Program, and Tanning Programs. There were miscellaneous budget items relating to MQSA, Metro, ODOE, DEQ and the RPS radioanalytical laboratory grants.

As a result of delaying the annual and biannual fee renewal activations to March 1, 2022, to accommodate creating new fee databases and alleviate COVID financial stress on licensees and registrants, the three programs have negative balances.

That said, there will be an immediate, significant rebound once fees are collected beginning March 1st.

Todd also shared that the new fee increases are projected to sustain RPS for the next three biennia.

Note: RAC member Jennifer Frankel joined meeting.

Electronic / Tanning Products Update – Brent Herring, Lead Worker, RPS

Brent reported that in 2021 RPS completed 307 x-ray facility inspections, including 1316 machines and 1393 tubes. RPS issued 124 notices of violations. Thirty-three tanning facility inspections were completed. RPS issued 124 violations. There are 132 tanning facilities due for inspection.

Radioactive Materials Licensing- Hillary Haskins, Operations Manager, RPS

Hillary reported that in 2021 Radioactive Materials Licensing (RML) staff performed 84 facility inspections with none being overdue. In addition, RML licensing staff completed 113 licensing actions. This included 47 changes of RSO/AU, 24 renewals, 20 actions to add/remove sources, 7 license terminations, creation of 6 new licenses, and 9 other miscellaneous licensing actions.

David Howe reinforced that the RPS RML program is strong as evidenced by the results of the August 2021 NRC Integrated Material Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP). The IMPEP audit occurs every 4 years. RPS received “satisfactory” for all performance indicators—the best possible ratings. The NRC made one recommendation relating to RPS’ Allegation and Incident reports to ensure consistent and comprehensive documentation. Overall, the RPS Radioactive Material Licensing program was found “adequate to protect public health and safety and compatible with the NRC’s program.”

Hillary shared that RPS field staff participated in a Columbia Generating Station “make up” drill for October 2021. RPS deployed two field teams for this FEMA evaluated drill. All activity performance criteria were found to be satisfactory.

Emergency Response /Incidents – Hillary Haskins, Operations Manager, RPS

Hillary reported that in 2021, there were 51 incident and allegation investigations. One of the more unusual incidents involved the FBI performing an on-scene investigation for weapons of mass destruction (WMD). Five small vials containing U-238 were found at a freight company that does shipments to a customer in Australia. RPS was contacted for disposal options.

Brent Herring shared about an incident discovered during an MQSA Inspection. It was determined that multiple medical facilities had their data held hostage via ransom ware. The impacted facilities had to shut down for a couple days to update their PACS software. Most of the data was recovered.

Brent Herring also reported about 19 allegations involving 4 licensed facilities at Central Oregon Radiology Associates (CORA). The RPS investigation determined that most of the allegations were unsubstantiated. CORA was able to provide corrective action for the confirmed violations by the time the investigation was completed.

RPS Training – Hillary Haskins, Operations Manager, RPS

Hillary reported that, due to Covid measures in 2021, only on-line courses were possible for training.

2022 Priorities – David Howe, Program Director, RPS

David shared that the 2022 RPS priorities include:

- 1) Implementation and collection of increased registration and licensing fees.
- 2) Recruitment and onboarding of 2 Administrative Specialists (Tanning Registrar and RPS Section Support).
- 3) Hiring of 4 EHS3 Radiation Health Physicists.
- 4) Implementation of the IMPEP recommendation to ensure consistency for incident/allegation documentation by internal audit.
- 5) Finalization of the PHD RPS Radiological Emergency Response Plan.

BREAK (11:05)

Roll Call (11:05AM)

Exemptions/Rules/Statutes

Blue Pearl Vet - CereTom Elite CT, Mobile CT with CVT operators – Hillary Haskins, Operations Manager, RPS

Valerie Lohr, Blue Pearl Vet Practice Manager, attended the meeting to present an exemption request for a CereTom Elite CT machine to be used in a newly constructed Blue Pearl Specialty + Emergency Pet Hospital.

Valerie explained that even though the CereTom Elite is equipped with shielding, the operators (Certified Veterinary Technician (CVT)/Veterinary Technician

Specialists (VTS) & CVT/VTS anesthetists) also wear additional personal protection equipment including lead gowns, gloves, and thyroid shields.

Dr. Megan Seekins added that the operators will complete extensive training in one of their surgical suites and a self-paced Medical Imaging Consultants, Inc. (MIC) course. The CVT's will have already completed a one to two-year academic course and passed the Veterinary Technician Exam, as well as obtained continuing education credits. The CVT/VTS operator training is a 3-day course, 8 hours per day.

Brent Herring referenced a report from Health Physics which shows that the device was intended to be used in two surgery rooms. Valerie shared that, due to the size, the CT unit will be used in only one of their two surgery suites.

Juliana Cyman and Barb Smith requested to see the MIC course outline and asked whether there was any required in-hospital hands-on training. Dr. Cyman reinforced the importance of having hands-on experience during normal veterinary practice operations. She also requested a schematic or photographs of surgery suite showing the layout of the room and machine location.

* Blue Pearl will submit the training course outline, a map or video of the suite layout, and will rewrite the exemption to reflect that the device will be used in only one room.

Brent inquired about the lead shielding in the wall between the surgical rooms.

*Blue Pearl will provide an updated Health Physics Report.

The Blue Pearl staff confirmed that the adjoining surgery room will not be used while the CT is in operation.

* Hillary reaffirmed the need for Blue Pearl to resubmit an updated Health Physics Report, a surgery suite map or video, and the MIC course outline. In addition, she requested information about how many hands-on clinic hours are included in the formal training and the number of procedures performed.

**Blue Pearl was asked to submit the above information to RPS no later than May 15, 2022, so the exemption request can be further considered at the June 15, 2022, Radiation Advisory Committee (RAC) meeting.

Legislative Bills

HB 2075 (RPS Fee Increases) – David Howe, Program Director, RPS

David reminded the RAC members that HB 2075 is being implemented and will increase RPS revenue through X-ray Tube Fee-Based Registration Fees, Radioactive Materials Licensing Fee Increases, Tanning Registration Fee Increases and a new X-ray Vendor Annual Licensing Fee.

2022 Legislative Short Session – David Howe, Program Director, RPS

David said that the 2022 Legislative session is only 5 weeks long and that there is no anticipation of any RPS Legislative Bills.

Rulemaking

David Howe shared that the passage of [HB 2993](#) in the 2021 legislative session adds a requirement to include individuals most affected by the proposed rule to be on Rules Advisory Committees. The RPS Radiation Advisory Committee serves as an ad hoc rule advisory committee for rulemaking, and reflects the constituents effected by our rules. To enhance that effort, Betty Brown, of the Portland Bible Community Pantry, and a nurse by training, has been invited and agreed to be a Rule Advisory Committee member when it convenes. Betty was introduced to the RAC members and expressed her appreciation for being invited.

Todd Carpenter reported that HB 3036 RPS rule amendments have been completed to make them compatible with OBMI's rules. HB 3036 allows Physician Assistants to perform fluoroscopic operations without being supervised by a physician.

Todd Carpenter also shared that HB 2528 creates a new dental professional called "Dental Therapist", RPS rule amendments are necessary for compatibility with the Oregon Board of Dentistry allowing dental therapists to operate intraoral dental radiographic x-ray machines. Todd asked RAC Member Jennifer Frankel (DMD), for her perspective about the new Dental Therapist profession. She feels it is somewhat controversial and said there is an Oregon program that trains Dental Hygienists to become Dental Therapists. As such, their responsibilities expand beyond being a Hygienist, but is less than a dentist's professional scope.

Jennifer Frankel asked for clarification regarding the rule allowing Dental Therapists to instruct radiology students. Jen Lewis, Oregon Dental Association Government Affairs, was able to join the meeting to help discuss HB 2528. Todd Carpenter will do more research and report back to RAC.

Donna Stevens joined the meeting and expressed her appreciation for being given the opportunity to serve as a RAC Chairperson and member for over 8 years. David thanked Donna for her outstanding RAC leadership and input which has strengthened the state's radiation protection services program.

Lunch (12:50PM)

Roll Call

Emergency Preparedness/Response

Columbia Generating Station/Hanford Exercise – Hillary Haskins, Operations Manager, RPS

Hillary Haskins reported that the Columbia Generating Station (CGS)/Hanford Exercise is scheduled for September/October 2022. RPS will be joined by the Oregon Army National Guard's Civil Support Team (CST) for the exercise. The RAD Responder field sampling platform will be used for the exercise.

Todd Carpenter shared that he has been updating the OHA/PHD State Radiological Emergency Response Plan and has shared an initial draft with PHD Health Security, Preparedness and Response (HSPR) staff. Todd will be sharing the Plan at an upcoming RAC meeting.

Hillary Haskins told RAC members that RPS Emergency Response Team (ERT) continues to meet once a month for training including radiation detector use, counting operations, air sampling procedures, command communication structure, development of a drone program and training coordination with State and Federal partners, (i.e., fire departments, the Portland Police Bureau EDU, CST).

RPS is in the process of purchasing three radio-isotope identification devices (RIIDs). This will enhance RPS' ability to equip our drone and identify nuclides of concern in order to take appropriate measures for controlling and disposing of radioactive materials.

ROSS – Radiation Operations Support Specialist – Hillary Haskins, Operations Manager, RPS

Hillary reported that most of RPS staff have completed Incident Command Structure (ICS) basic trainings. ICS is a scalable emergency management system developed from the U.S. Forest Department for dealing with wildfires.

There is also a national initiative to expand upon a new Radiological Operation Support Specialist (ROSS) volunteer program designed to create state teams of radiation subject matter experts (SME's) in support of radiation incident management teams and ICS formations. Any interested person (including retirees) who have a health professional or public safety background can be trained/certified as a ROSS and help enhance radiological response capabilities. Hillary is the Oregon ROSS coordinator, if you have any questions, please contact her.

ODOE updating waste rules – Hillary Haskins, Operations Manager, RPS

Hillary reported that the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) is in the process of completing a rulemaking project to implement provisions of SB 246 (2021). The intent of SB 246 is to ensure there is adequate public health and safety for radioactive waste disposal activities. ODOE rulemaking is addressing proposed revisions to OAR chapter 345, division 050, and other rules regarding the regulation of radioactive waste. RPS has representatives on the rulemaking committee.

Recent incidents – Hillary Haskins, Operations Manager, RPS

Hillary provided an overview of recent radiation incidents that RPS is resolving. In addition to numerous scrap/waste alarms, a high-level Ra-226 source was discovered at a recycling center and the City of Albany water treatment tank (off-service) was also found to be contaminated with Ra-226. There were also a couple of medical events involving the administration of a radiation treatment at the wrong site and a radiation treatment delivered to the wrong patient.

New Business- Hillary Haskins, Operations Manager, RPS

Hillary reported the POSB/state buildings public re-opening has been delayed indefinitely.

Most of RPS staff will continue to work remotely. Essential overnight inspection trips are being approved on an as-needed basis.

David Howe reminded RAC members of the mandatory 2022 trainings related to ethics, discrimination, and privacy laws.

Single Device Project – Lee Lind, Administrative Specialist

Lee reported about the "Single Device Project." Lee explained that the purpose of the project is to ensure all Department of Human Services (DHS) and Oregon

Health Authority (OHA) staff are each using a single state-issued computer/laptop, plus one phone for in-office or remote work (from home). This project is being managed by the Office of Information Services (OIS). An OIS team will work with agency office coordinators to evaluate each employee's work requirements. This includes their home network capacity (bandwidth), and long-term remote work plans to determine their technology needs. The goal is to simplify the way each agency works and reduce the technology carbon footprint.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Announcements \ Next meeting scheduled for June 15, 2022

Adjourn 1:12 PM LL