



TEXAS RADIATION ADVISORY BOARD

Strategic Planning 2020

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CREATED DECEMBER 2020

Introduction:

The Texas Radiation Advisory Board created the board's first Strategic Plan through a series of meetings in 2020. Our last live meeting together in Austin was on February 2020, where we set the ground work for creating our first Strategic Plan. Through a series of TRAB meetings, the three committees: Industrial, Nuclear Power, Uranium, Waste (INUW), Medical committee, and Topic Research committee have each created Mission, Vision and Purpose statements. Reviewed past topics and future goals to create this living document. Together, under the guidance of Texas Department State Health Services staff we identify topics and develop collaborations with local State, Federal Boards and Agencies to ensure effective regulation of sources of radiation for protection of the occupational, public health and safety. Our Board is comprised of eighteen members representing stakeholders from Medical, Radiation, Nuclear industries, and Public representatives per State guidelines. We review and evaluate state radiation policies, programs and proposed rules.

Meet our TRAB Board Members: <https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/trab/members/>

John Hageman, MS, CHP – Chair - representative of health physics
Dr. William Pate – Vice Chair - representative of hospital administration
Bob Redweik - representative from the petroleum well-servicing industry
Darlene Metter, MD, FACR - representative licensed by Texas, specializing in nuclear medicine
Darshan Sachde, Ph.D. – representative of the public
Doug Posey, DVM - representative from agriculture
Ken Peters - representative from the nuclear utility industry
Vacant –representative of industry
Kevin Raabe, REM - representative from the uranium mining industry
Lynn S. Silguero – representative of the public
Mark Harvey, Ph.D. - representative engaged in the application of nuclear physics in medicine
Mark Silberman, MD - representative licensed by Texas specializing in pathology
Neal Leavell, DDS - representative licensed by the State Board of Dental Examiners
Vacant - representative from the insurance industry
Sanjay J Narayan – representative of the public
Simon Trubek, MD - representative licensed by Texas, specializing in radiology
Charles Cavnor - representative from labor
Tim Powell, MBA - representative from the radioactive waste processing industry

1. Mission and Purpose Statements of the Texas Radiation Advisory Board (TRAB) Committees

Medical Committee

PURPOSE: The Medical Committee's purpose is to advise and make recommendations to the TRAB in the up-to-date medical use of radiation in hospitals, clinics, doctors' offices, dental and veterinary facilities, and biomedical research laboratories necessary to protect public health and safety in Texas. The Medical Committee reviews state radiation related programs, regulations, policies, issues, and stakeholder concerns involved in medicine, dentistry, veterinary care, and research. On such review, the Medical Committee maintains a broad perspective on current radiation issues in the state, however, these reviews may also encompass regional and federal regulations that may affect radiation programs and practices in Texas.

VISION: Provide expertise and excellence in an up-to-date awareness, understanding and knowledge on medical, dental, veterinary, and biomedical research radiation issues affecting public health and safety in Texas.

MISSION: Keeping abreast of understanding, reviewing, and advising the TRAB and the state on recommendations promoting the safe use of radiation in Texas for public health and safety. The Medical Committee is to provide recommendations to the TRAB for action related to the state's regulations, guidance and current issues for the state's agencies, legislature, and governor.

GOALS: The Medical Committee: Goals, specifically related to the above, include:

- As an Agreement state, keeping abreast and informing the TRAB of Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) rulemaking, regulatory guidance, and advisory statements pertinent to the Medical Committee's Purpose, Vision and Mission
- Addressing Department of State Health Services (DSHS) issues affecting the purview of the Medical Committee
- Remaining knowledgeable on the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD) current activities regarding medical related radiation protection.
- Understanding, reviewing and as appropriate advising/or and making recommendations to the TRAB on current issues affecting radiation practices in Texas (e.g., the COVID-19 pandemic)
- Proposing and/or assisting in recommendations for the TRAB website to promote public information and education on radiation issues in medicine, dentistry, veterinary care, and biomedical research

Industrial, Nuclear Power, Uranium and Waste Disposal (INUW) Committee:

PURPOSE: The INUW Committee's purpose is to advise and make recommendations to the TRAB in the up-to-date use of radiation in:

- Industrial applications
 - o radiography and irradiators
 - o oil and gas well examinations (well logging) using radiation
 - o product sterilization
 - o gauges and devices
 - o research and development
 - o transportation of any radioactive material
- Nuclear power generation and research reactors
- Uranium and naturally occurring radioactive material mining, milling, use, handling, recovery, reclamation and disposal
- Radioactive waste generation, storage, processing, transportation, and disposal

The INUW Committee reviews state radiation related programs, regulations, policies, issues, and stakeholder concerns involved in the items listed earlier. On such review, the INUW Committee maintains a broad perspective on current radiation issues in the state, however, these reviews may also encompass regional and federal regulations that may affect radiation programs and practices in Texas.

VISION: Providing expertise and excellence in an up-to-date awareness, understanding and knowledge on radiation issues affecting public health and safety in Texas.

MISSION: Keeping abreast of understanding, reviewing, and advising the TRAB on recommendations promoting the safe use of radiation in Texas to assure public health and safety. The INUW Committee is to provide recommendations to the TRAB for action related to the state's regulations, guidance and current issues for the state's agencies, legislature, and governor.

GOALS: The INUW Committee: Goals, specifically related to the above, include:

- Review, evaluate and provide comments on state radiation regulations, policies and programs
- Furnish technical expertise and advice to the state agencies on matters relating to the development, use and regulation of sources of radiation
- Prepare position statements and letters of recommendation related to radiation safety for state agencies, the legislature and governor
- Develop and implement policies that provide the public with a reasonable opportunity to appear before the Committee and to speak on any issue under the jurisdiction of the Committee

- Advocate the safe uses of radiation including safe storage and disposal of radioactive waste for the benefit of the citizens of the state
- Educate the public on the beneficial uses of radioactive materials and sources including radiation safety policies and relative risks
- Advocate for radiation safety policies that protect and provide for the public health and safety

Topic Research Committee

PURPOSE: The Topic Research Committee supports the TRAB and its other Committees by serving to identify and research radiation-related matters relevant to the TRAB's mission.

VISION: This Committee provides broad, forward-looking expertise for raising awareness, understanding and knowledge on potential radiation issues affecting public health and safety in Texas. The Topic Research Committee seeks to achieve this purpose by incorporating a broad range of expertise from its Committee members, while regularly soliciting input from all TRAB Committee members and members of the public attending the Topic Research Committee's meetings.

MISSION: Keeping abreast of pending and potential issues for the TRAB and its other Committees so that recommendations can be proposed to better promote the safe use of radiation in Texas and to assure public health and safety. The Topic Research Committee is to provide recommendations to the TRAB's other Committees for actions related to the state's regulations, guidance and current issues for TRAB actions related to the state's agencies, legislature, and governor.

GOALS: Specifically, the Topic Research Committee serves the full board and its other Committees by performing the following functions:

- Identifying emerging topics and issues in all subject matter areas covered by the TRAB
- Researching and discussing newly identified topics to determine relevance to the TRAB
- Defining a specific course of action or additional research required
- Developing relevant topics in sufficient detail for further consideration by the other Committees of the TRAB and/or the full board

2. Annual SWOT Analysis

Following each fiscal (or calendar) year, the Strategic Planning Working Group will meet to evaluate:

- If the actions taken by TRAB and its Committees were in alignment with its strategic goals
- If the actions taken by TRAB and its Committees were outside the scope of its strategic goals
- If the strategic goals should continue unchanged or if changes should be considered

The Strategic Planning Working Group will annually analyze Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats (SWOT Analysis). These are

- **Strengths:**
 - o Knowledgeable Board and Committee members, and professional experience.
 - o Ability to consider issues from the private sector and public interest points of view.
 - o Ability to identify State interests in ongoing and emerging topics related to radiation
 - o Ability to make recommendations on a broad range of radiation-related topics
 - o Knowledgeable agency staff and industry members available to provide information to TRAB
- **Weaknesses:**
 - o Agencies ability to adopt Board recommendations for rulemaking may be limited by statutory authority and status as an NRC agreement state
 - o TRAB recommendations to agencies may be constrained by agency budget and staff limitations
 - o TRAB's statutory purpose and duties as an advisory board to state agencies limits the Board's ability to directly affect the public and regulated industries
- **Opportunities:**
 - o Improve coordination and collaboration with state agencies on radiation-related topics.
 - o Increase collective knowledge of the Board on radiation-related topics
 - o Identify potential threats to radiation related public health and safety as well as potential agency responses to those threats.
 - o Recommendations for emergency preparedness measures can be made in a manner consistent with the Texas State Emergency Management Planning structures
- **Threats: Emergency response planning: COVID, Power/Utility Shutdown due to weather**
 - o Non-pandemic threatens the ability of TRAB to advise agencies and ability of agencies to carry out their radiation-related duties.
 - o A lack of consensus on certain safety-related issues
 - o Conflicts in interests between industries, public groups and industries

- Tension between promoting rapid growth in high-demand areas and ensuring that growth is safe and sustainable
- Pandemic Impacts – TRAB should understand how the agencies adapt to a pandemic
- Pandemic disaster declarations recommending limitations on in-person contact may impact agencies procedures for the regulation and oversight of radiation use.
- Economic fluctuations throughout the state may create statewide budget reductions, impacting the state’s oversight of radiation use and emergency response capabilities

The Strategic Planning Working Group’s SWOT Analysis, findings and recommendations will be presented to the TRAB on the second meeting of the new fiscal (or calendar) year.

3. TRAB Strategic Goals

- Review and recommend best practices for radiation controls
- Review and evaluate proposed rules for the regulation of radiation and make recommendations to the agencies on any changes, as appropriate.
- Bring in presentations to educate the TRAB members and meeting attendees on the many various topics pertaining to radiation safety. Suggested topics may include:
 - nuclear power and the Pantex Plant
 - emergency response planning COVID, Power/Utility shutdown due to weather
 - decommissioning projects
 - medical use of radiation and isotopes
 - novel/cutting edge radiation-related issues
 - other topics of interest
- Understand and evaluate the national and international conversations on health and safety standards for the use of radiation, including Texas' role in those conversations. Topics to follow include, but are not limited to, eye dose limits, ALARA & FGI Procedure.
- Consider recommendations to agencies regarding changes to rules, policies, or procedures as appropriate
- Support ways to minimize pandemic impact on radiation safety
- Administrative: updating the Website and Strategic Plan annually
- Plan future meetings in this new COVID-19 environment by using remote/zoom communications

4. Example of TRAB Business Recap

Project	Status	Strategic Objective
MEDICAL	<i>In Progress</i>	A. Update of Veterinary 25 TAC §289.233 rulemaking changes (Posey/Bruedigan)
INUW	<i>In Progress</i>	Status of §289.233, Radiation Control Regulations for Radiation Machines
TOPIC RESEARCH	<i>In Progress</i>	Updates on rulemaking priorities, Sections 289.233 & 289.226
ADMIN	<i>In Progress</i>	Long range planning to develop action goals and implement our Strategic Plan 2020
INUW	<i>Completed Dec 2020</i>	Action item with RESULTS

Refer to TRAB Publications for full Meeting Agendas and Minutes, Resolutions and Reports:
<https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/trab/publications/>

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