



TEXAS RADIATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Friday, June 24, 2022

Scheduled to Convene at 10:45 AM

1. Call to order

William Pate, Dr.PH., Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:50 a.m. A quorum was present.

2. Roll call of TRAB members present.

Members present: William Pate, Dr.PH; John Hageman, M.S., C.H.P.; Charles Cavnor; Lisa Masters, D.D.S.; Sanjay Narayan; Bob Redweik; Michael Britt; Tim Powell; Darshan Sachde, Ph.D.; Mark Silberman, M.D.; Lynn Silguero; and Mark Harvey, Ph.D.

Department of State Health Services (DSHS) staff present: Lisa Bruedigan, Walquiria Sanchez, Karl Von Ahn, Kaylie Smith, Gem Naivar, Brian Vamvakias, Jay Pavlica, Abby Melick

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) staff present: Gene Muller, Brad Broussard, and Elizabeth Sifuentez Koch

Texas Railroad Commission (RRC) staff present: David Cooney

Guests present: Eddie Selig, Advocates for Responsible Disposal in Texas; Brian Christian, Advocates for Responsible Disposal in Texas;

3. Review and, as needed, discuss, and take possible action concerning amendment and/or approval of the minutes of the March 25, 2022, meeting

Dr. Silberman made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Cavnor seconded the motion, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

4. Public Comments

None

5. TRAB Committee Reports and Recommendations

A. Industrial, Nuclear Power, Uranium and Waste Committee

Dr. Sachde discussed the committee meeting.

B. Medical Committee

Dr. Silberman discussed the committee meeting.

C. Topic Research Committee

Dr. Sachde discussed the committee meeting.

6. Program Reports

A. Railroad Commission of Texas

Mr. Cooney discussed the program report.

B. Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Mr. Broussard discussed the program report.

C. Texas Department of State Health Services

Ms. Bruedigan discussed the program report. She stated that one item that was not in the report was the Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP) review. Both DSHS and TCEQ underwent their 4-year evaluation with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in the last week of February of this year. Ms. Bruedigan and Ms. Forbes traveled to DC on June 9th and met with the management board to answer their questions and receive their final recommendations. Many of the questions that they had were generic and fine-tuning the wording in the report. They did have questions about staffing and turnover. The NRC and other states are having the same issues as we are in this area. They asked that we do our best to work on this. DSHS and TCEQ were found to be adequate to protect public health and safety and are compatible with the NRC's program. The IMPEP review has recommended that we have a periodic review in two years, and then the formal IMPEP review in four years. Dr. Pate asked if the full report would be available to the Board when it is completed. Ms. Bruedigan responded that yes, once it is published, the Board would have access.

It was asked if the board could get a copy of the Cobalt Magnet exercise report when it is available in 2023. Dr. Pate asked if the Board would be interested in having a presentation on one of these large-scale exercises to be able to see what our state's emergency response capabilities are and how they have been tested. Ms. Bruedigan responded that she would look into making that happen if not at the next meeting, at the meeting after.

D. Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Commission

Mr. Raines reported that they are going through some rule changes. He also reported that they have a new commissioner on their board. Governor Abbott appointed Sumana Nayak as the representative from Andrews County. Mr. Raines also reported that they went through their Commission Review this past Wednesday, and the recommendations from the Sunset Advisory staff were to make no changes to and to have the Commission go through the process again with TCEQ 12 years from now in 2035.

E. Waste Control Specialists (WCS)

No one was present to report from WCS.

F. U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission – TCEQ Commissioner Bobby Janecka, State Liaison Officer

Commissioner Janecka was not present.

7. Routine and Continuing Business

A. Recognition of TRAB member's excused absence from this meeting

Darlene Metter, Roland Benke, Ken Peters, Simon Trubek, Doug Posey, and Kevin Raabe requested excused absences from this meeting and Darshan Sachde asked to leave early. A motion was made by Ms. Silguero and was seconded by Micheal Britt to approve these absences. All approved.

B. Status of the TRAB's Recommendations on Licensing Fee Structure

Ms. Bruedigan reported that there was no update on this item. This chapter has not opened for revision at this time. This item will be removed until the chapter is ready to be opened for revision.

C. Status of updating the TRAB's Publications webpage

Dr. Pate stated that he has checked the website and that everything seems to be up to date. Ms. Bruedigan reported that there is still a major overhaul being done to the DSHS websites, including the TRAB site. We will make corrections as needed. Please let DSHS know if you see corrections or updates that need to be made.

D. TCEQ Rules Update: 30 Tex. Admin Code Section 336.357

Mr. Broussard gave an update on this Rule has been adopted and is now being enforced. It was proposed to close this item and remove it from the agenda.

E. Texas Regulatory Conference status

Ms. Bruedigan reported that DSHS has been working with the Texas Chapter of Health Physics Society, and we have set the dates as November 3-4, 2022, at the Doubletree Hotel on I-35. DSHS will be sending out Save the Date notices very soon. We are updating the agenda at this time and considering if there will be a banquet dinner with a keynote speaker.

F. Strategic Plans for committee year-end review

The Strategic Plans were distributed electronically to each Board Member. Dr. Pate asked for any comments, questions or concerns related to the Strategic Plans. Questions were addressed. A motion was made by Dr. Harvey and seconded by Mr. Redweik. All approved.

Dr. Pate mentioned that we will work to get the 2023 goals started at the September meeting so that we can have them approved earlier in the year.

G. Update of TRAB By-Laws

Each Board member was provided an electronic copy of the By-Laws. Comments were received by email, and many of those changes were related to grammatical errors. Other updates and corrections were discussed. A motion was made by Mr. Powell and seconded by Mr. Britt to approve the bylaws as amended. All approved.

8. New Business

A. Update on Sunset Review of TCEQ and TLLRWDC

Ms. Sifuentez Koch provided an update on the TCEQ Sunset Review process. They had a hearing in the week prior to this meeting. The Sunset Advisory Commission heard the Sunset staff's recommendations and had an opportunity to hear public comments and TCEQ comments. Public comments are due by June 27th. The commission will make their final adoption of the staff recommendations on October 12th. These recommendations will then go through the legislative process and will be entered into a bill, and will go through the legislative session, and then TCEQ will be ok for another 12 years.

Dr. Pate asked if there will be anything coming up between now and the next TRAB meeting. Ms. Sifuentez Koch stated that if there are any

revisions needed to the recommendations of the staff, TCEQ will be notified of the process.

B. Discussion on social media for TRAB

A discussion was held off-line by the Board regarding an interest in a possible public communication tool or social media avenue for the Board to use to be able to communicate activities and position statements as they are developed. Is this something that the Board would want to pursue? The Board does have a website on the DSHS website where agendas, minutes, and reports are published. Ms. Bruedigan stated that while this is a great idea, there are some logistics that we would have to work through with the DSHS press office and legal before we could do something like this. It was decided that there would not be support to continue to investigate the development of a TRAB-specific social media avenue, but instead to investigate the ability of individual board members to use their various societies to possibly disseminate information. This will be researched and reported on at the next Board meeting.

9. Identification of Agenda Items and/or topics for next or future TRAB or TRAB Committee Meetings

Dr. Pate mentioned that he would like to see the different position statement documents that have been developed by the board over the years go through some type of periodic review. The Topic Research Committee will serve as the working group for this process. The Board would pick one or two previous position statements, and the Topic Research Committee would review them, determine whether or not they still need to exist, whether the Board still agrees with them, and if they need to be updated. They will then be presented at a future Board meeting for review and discussion.

It was asked if any on-site meetings have been decided on that would be feasible. Dr. Hageman stated that STP is amenable to this, but there is a question about the state providing funding for travel. It was asked if the Reactor site at UT would be a possible site to visit. Ms. Bruedigan stated that she would look at this option. She also mentioned that DSHS is looking at possible budget cuts, so she isn't sure if we will have the funds to cover this type of trip. There is also still a concern about violating the Open Meetings Act. Dr. Pate suggested that Board members think about the possibility of putting together or asking colleagues to put together educational presentations to be presented at the Board meetings.

10. Adjourn

A motion was made by Mr. Britt to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Redweik. Dr. Pate adjourned the meeting at 12:10 p.m.