



**Department of State Health Services (DSHS)
Program Report to the Texas Radiation Advisory Board
(TRAB) Consumer Protection Division**

March 26, 2021

Business Filing and Verification Section

Radioactive Material Unit – Karl Von Ahn, Manager

The RAM licensing staff continue to work throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff continue working in the office and from home on a rotating schedule.

We have updated and will be posting on the RCP web site a newly revised Application Guide 2.8 for Portable Gauge licensing. The guide mimics the NRC NUREG-1556 licensing guide format.

The industrial radiography program has resumed conducting certification exams. Pearson Vue, through a contract with the CRCPD, administers (proctors) the exams by online computer-based exams. As of March 9, 2021, 862 examinees have been approved to take the industrial radiographer certification exams. The current backlog of 200 examinee exams is due to the COVID-19 restrictions at the different testing locations. The examinees schedule with Pearson Vue the time and location of their choosing at Pearson Vue test sites. We have received positive feedback on the new process.

Radiation Machine Source Unit – Jo Turkette, Manager

The x-ray registration program has discontinued filing hard copy documents. All medical, industrial, laser and mammography records are now being scanned and stored electronically in the internal SharePoint site.

The Radiation Machine Source staff continue to work in the office and remotely on a rotating schedule.

Radiation Surveillance Section-Radiation Unit

Radioactive Materials Inspection Group – Eric Skotak, Manager

No updates.

Mammography and X-Ray Group – Trae Windham, Manager

No Updates.

X-Ray and Remote Inspections Group – Shannon Quinn, Manager

No Updates.

X-ray Group – Stephanie Lopez, Manager

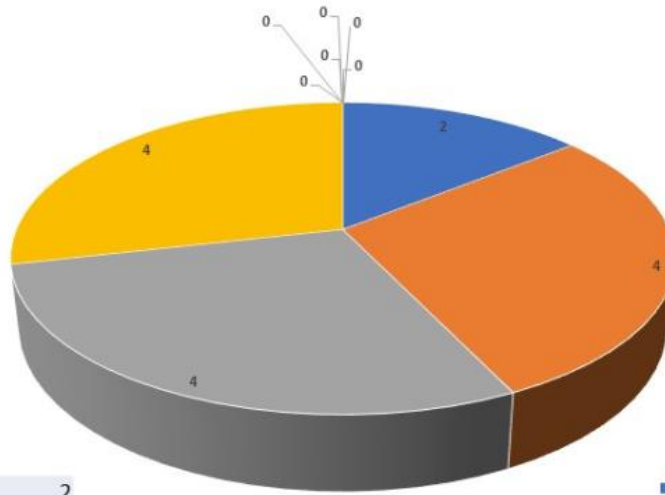
No Updates.

Environmental Monitoring Group – Bob Free, Manager

Incident Investigations:

There were no significant events reported during this reporting period. The pie charts below reflect the numbers and categories of incidents and complaints received during this reporting period.

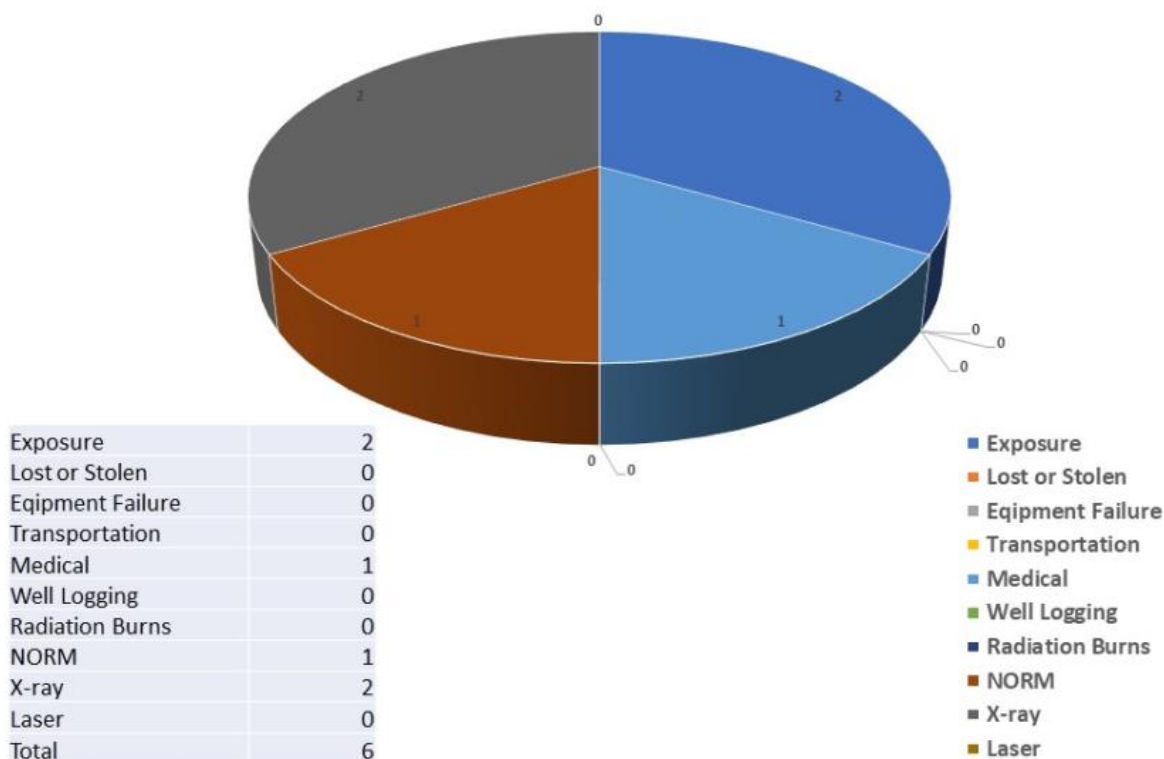
Incidents from November 1, 2020 -
January 31, 2021



Exposure	2
Lost or Stolen	4
Equipment Failure	4
Transportation	4
Medical	0
Well Logging	0
Radiation Burns	0
NORM	0
X-ray	0
Laser	0
Total	14

- Exposure
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- Radiation Burns
- NORM
- X-ray
- Laser

Complaints from November 1, 2020 -
January 31, 2021



South Texas Project (STP):

DSHS continues to monitor and respond to emails, phone calls, and conference calls regarding COVID-19 updates for STP and Matagorda County. DSHS recently supported a virtual MS-1 held locally at Palacios Community Medical Center in Palacios, TX. Due to travel restrictions with FEMA, DSHS is currently working on holding a virtual plume exercise on July 28, 2021, to fulfill our agency's offsite response requirements. Additionally, virtual and limited capacity in-person training efforts are underway to prepare for the exercise. Radiation Instrumentation, Public Information, and Decon Techniques training has been given to RERT members and interested staff.

Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant (CP):

There were no Comanche Peak Nuclear Plant (CP) exercises or major activities for DSHS during this period. DSHS continues to monitor and respond to emails, phone calls, and conference calls concerning COVID 19 updates specific to Comanche Peak and Hood and Somervell Counties. their facilities. These monitoring activities have been coordinated with FEMA Region VI in Denton. The two Medical Service (MS-1) drills at the Lake Granbury Medical

Center and Texas Health Cleburne will be demonstrated virtually, later this year, to meet the FEMA required evaluation criteria.

CP is also currently in the process of requesting an exemption from the NRC to move the scheduled FEMA Plume Phase Evaluated Exercise from June 16th, 2021 to June of 2022, due to COVID 19 and social distancing issues. In addition, Hood and Somervell Counties are providing personnel to support a Vaccination Hub to deliver first and follow-up vaccinations to approximately 1000 people per day. This Vaccination Hub will be active for 23 weeks.

Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP):

One waste shipment was transported from Waste Control Specialists to the WIPP site during this reporting period. Additional shipments are currently scheduled for late April 2021.

Also, a total of nine WIPP related briefings were provided by phone to 12 local officials in Dallas, Midland, Ward, Mitchell, Pecos, and Tarrant Counties.

Planning continues to be underway with local officials in Abilene regarding a three-day WIPP transportation exercise now tentatively scheduled for the summer of 2022.

Pantex:

There were no off-site PANTEX exercises during this reporting period. DSHS continues to monitor, receive and acknowledge monthly emails and Fax notifications from the plant.

Planning for FY2021 is still under consideration, however, with the ongoing CoVid-19 outbreak and response, some issues regarding scheduling exercises remain. However, a limited full-scale exercise may be possible for the end of the fiscal year.

The construction of the new DSHS/Armstrong County staging area is complete. Equipment and supplies are being added. This will complete preparations to make it fully functional as a base of DSHS Radiological Emergency Response Team operations. The staging area facility space is shared between the fire department and DSHS and is designed to be used as an Armstrong County Emergency Operations Center.

Two new DSHS employees have been added to staff the Department's Pantex support positions, Mr. Teddy Anthony is now the local area contact for Pantex emergency planning, and Mr. Chris Amaro is based in Austin as the DSHS lead planner.

Compliance Section

Environmental Health Unit – Alyson Henry

From November 2020 – February 2021, the Compliance Section issued 161 Orders against individuals and companies that were found to have violated the Texas Regulations for Control of Radiation (25 Texas Administrative Code §§289.201 – 302). These Orders have resulted in the assessment of \$214,291 in administrative penalties. 37 X-ray registrations and 10 laser registrations were revoked during this period.

Policy, Standards, and Quality Assurance Section

Radiation Unit – Brian Vamvakias, Manager

Upcoming rules:

- §289.233 - Radiation Control Regulations for Radiation Machines used in Veterinary Medicine (Project 20R030).
 - The Adopted version is under review by the Rules Coordination Office. It is scheduled to become effective at the end of April 2021.
- §289.226 - Radiation Control Regulations for Registration of Radiation Machines Use and Services (Project 20R029)
 - The proposed rule was presented to the HHS Executive Council on March 8, 2021. The 30-day public comment period is scheduled to start March 26 and end April 26. There will not be a public meeting during this time. At the end of the comment period, the department will respond to any comment and the result will be presented to the RCO as the Adopted version.
 - The rule is scheduled to be effective on July 27, 2021.
- §289.252, §289.256, §289.257 - Medical Use of Radioactive Material (Project 21R035)
 - The NRC made significant changes to 10 CFR 30, 32, and 35 in January 2019. Texas must amend the associated Sections in Chapter 289 TAC by January 2022.
 - The informal draft is under review by the RCO and is scheduled to have a 10-day public comment period in late April. The department will respond to any comments received on the

informal draft and provide the proposed version to the RCO, which will have a 30-day public comment period in late September. The project is scheduled to be presented to the HHS Executive Council meeting in August 2021. The rule is scheduled to be effective in January 2022.