



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

December 10, 2021

Business Filing and Verification Section

Radioactive Material Unit – Karl Von Ahn, Manager

We relocated to the Morton Building on the main DSHS campus at the end of October. After the move, the office footprint was significantly reduced. The RAM licensing and Industrial Radiographer Certification staff now telework most days. The workflow and process revisions made during COVID has demonstrated that teleworking is a viable option for staff. We continue to work on process improvements and preparing for the upcoming NRC IMPEP review.

Radiation Machine Source Unit – Jo Turkette, Manager

No Updates.

Radiation Surveillance Section-Radiation Unit

Radioactive Materials Inspection Group – Eric Skotak, Manager

We are preparing for the February 28 – March 4, 2021, NRC Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program visit to evaluate the Texas Radiation Control Program.

Mammography and X-Ray Group – Trae Windham, Manager

No Updates.

X-Ray and Remote Inspections Group – Shannon Quinn and Stephanie

Lopez, Managers

X-ray surveillance recently hired three new inspectors who are currently in their first phase of training.

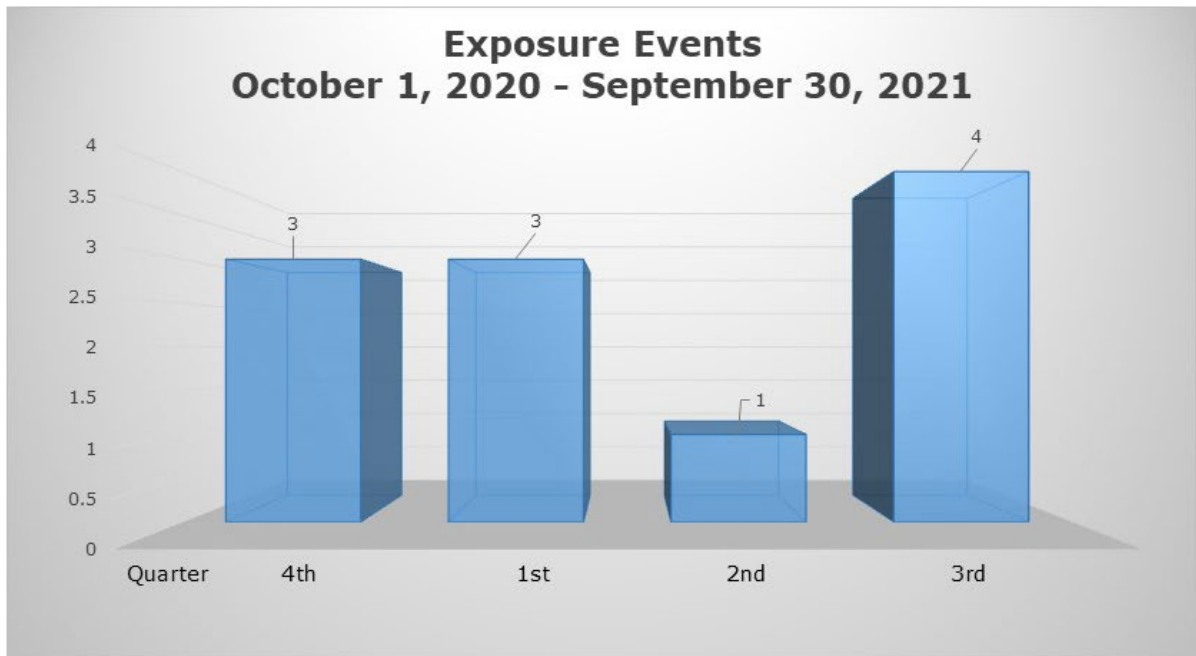
X-ray Group – Stephanie Lopez, Manager

In November, Stephanie Lopez, X-Ray Surveillance Manager South, completed Radiological Operations Support Specialist (ROSS) training.

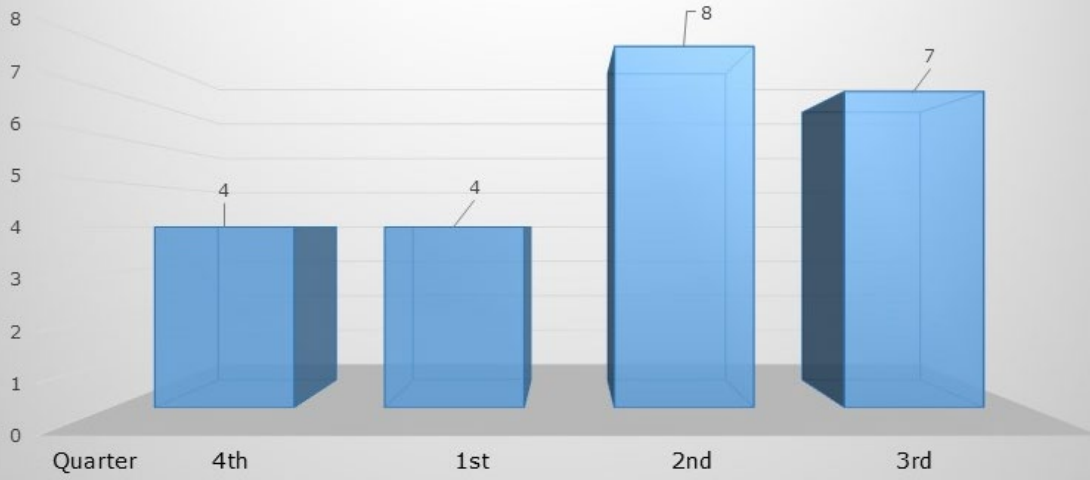
Environmental Monitoring Group – Bob Free, Manager

Incident Investigations:

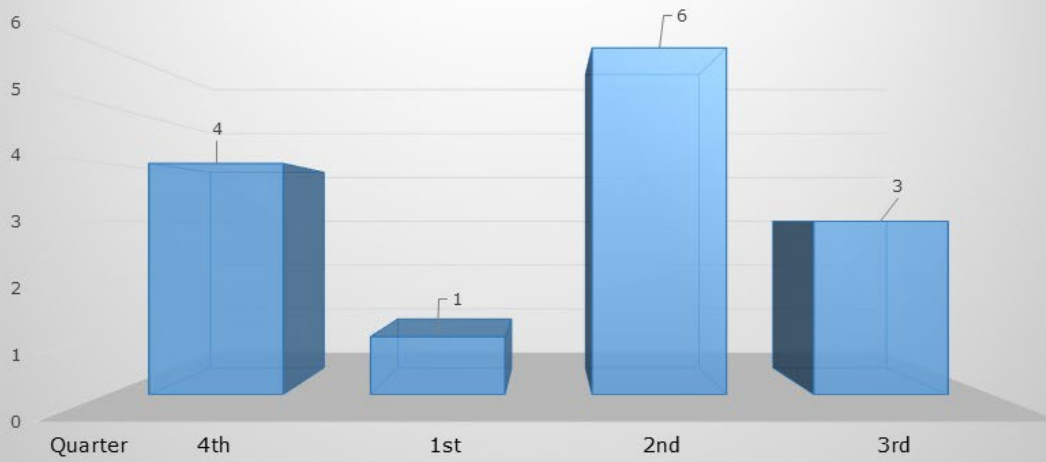
There were no significant events reported during this reporting period. The graphs below reflect the numbers and categories of incidents received during this reporting period.



Equipment Events October 1, 2020 - September 30, 2021



Medical Events October 1, 2020 - September 30, 2021





South Texas Project (STP):

DSHS received the final report for the evaluated exercise held virtually in July 2021 and successfully demonstrated all exercise criteria. The FEMA evaluated Medical Services (MS-1) drill is scheduled for December 2, 2021, in Bay City.

Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant (CP):

There were no Comanche Peak Nuclear Plant (CP) exercises or major activities for DSHS during this time period. In addition, DSHS is monitoring activities at the Comanche Peak designated hospitals, Lake Granbury Medical Center (LGMC) and Texas Health Cleburne (THC), for issues that could affect their ability to provide assistance to contaminated injured workers at their facilities.

Planning for the 2022 evaluated exercise is moving ahead and is expected to take place on schedule with some potential changes in the method of demonstration.

Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP):

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Department of Energy has limited the shipments of transuranic waste through Texas to the WIPP site located southeast of Carlsbad, New Mexico. Two TRU-Waste shipments traversed Texas in November 2021. This was due to a temporary prioritization to move waste from sites in the Western states.

Transportation Emergency Preparedness training was conducted on August 30th-Sept 2nd, 2021, Nov 2nd-4th, and Nov 8th-10th in jurisdictions near the

WIPP transportation corridor. A total of 113 responders completed the training.

Pantex:

Planning for the FY2022 Pantex exercise is on schedule for March 30, 2022. The DSHS Staging Area is operational, with a few minor additions still to come. Two current DSHS personnel have been added to the DSHS AIP team. Both are in the Amarillo area.

DSHS staff are working on updating emergency response procedures and plans to bring them up to date.

Environmental Monitoring for the third quarter of 2021 around Pantex and surrounding areas was completed in October 2021.

Emergency Preparedness and Response:

No Updates.

Compliance Section

Environmental Health Unit – Alyson Henry

No update available

Policy, Standards, and Quality Assurance Section

Radiation Unit – Brian Vamvakias, Manager

Recent Rule Changes:

- §289.233 - Radiation Control Regulations for Radiation Machines used in Veterinary Medicine (Project 20R030).
 - A draft copy of Regulatory Guide 4.5 for Veterinary and Animal Research Facilities was provided to TRAB subject matter experts for their comment.
 - A draft copy of veterinary rule Frequently Asked Questions was also provided to TRAB subject matter experts for their comment.
 - These will be provided to the public on the Radiation Control website when finalized.
 - The Surveillance staff will not enforce any new requirement until January 1, 2022.

- §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 concerning the medical use of radioactive material (RAM). Texas must amend the associated Sections in Chapter 289 TAC by January 2022. Other NRC revisions since 2018 are also being incorporated into this project.
 - No comments were received during the 10-day Informal draft public comment period.
 - The NRC has provided comments concerning corrections of cross references. These changes were incorporated into the Proposed rule.
 - TRAB members provided comments concerning clarification of veterinary use of radioactive material as well as some corrections. These corrections were incorporated in the Adopted rule.
 - The Proposed rule was published in the Texas Register on October 8, 2021. The comment period ended November 8, 2021. No comments were received.
 - The Adopted rule is scheduled to be published in the Texas Register on January 7, 2022 and become effective on January 12, 2022.

Staffing

- Vacancies
 - Radiation PSQA has vacancies in the Radioactive Material Rules Coordinator and Quality Assurance Reviewer positions due to retirement of staff.
 - These positions will be posted as soon as possible.
- Training
 - Nicole Roman also recently completed ROSS training.