

Facts about the Radiological Health Program

The Radiological Health Program (RHP) is mandated by Title 8: "Radiation" of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Environment Article, to control the uses of radiation and to protect the public and the environment from inadvertent and unnecessary radiation exposure. The RHP also acts as a source of information on radiation activities. Radiation user fees outlined in COMAR 26.12.03 must be periodically updated to defray a substantial portion of operating costs. COMAR 26.12.01.01, "Regulations for the Control of Ionizing Radiation", are kept current through the issuance of supplements containing updated information.

The RHP's Radioactive Materials (RAM) Division regulates almost 600 hospitals, doctors' offices, manufacturing and construction industries, radiographers and other radioisotope users. As an Atomic Energy Act Agreement State, Maryland has the state level authority to function exactly as the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission in issuing and inspecting RAM licenses and pursuing penalty assessments. Out-of-state radioactive material licensees must report to the RHP before working in hospitals or on roads, buildings and other projects requiring the use of radioisotopes.

The RHP's Radiation Machines Division performs the registration and inspection of approximately 3,000 dental and veterinary x-ray facilities in the State and the certification and registration of about 1,600 medical/academic facilities with x-ray machines and accelerators. The statute requires the licensing of private inspectors to assist in the certification program. COMAR 26.12.02, Inspection and Certification of Radiation Machines provides specific requirements. About 8,450 dental and veterinary x-ray machines (tubes) at registered facilities are inspected by RHP staff. RHP staff also inspects mammography facilities under a Mammography Quality Standards Act contract with the Food and Drug Administration.

Finally, the RHP responds to any actual or staged emergencies at either the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant (Maryland) or Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station (Pennsylvania), and any industrial, medical or transportation radiation accident, or serious incidents involving radiation. We work diligently to achieve our Managing Maryland for Results Goal of "Ensuring that Members of the Public Are Not Exposed to Unnecessary Levels of Radiation."



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