MARYLAND RADIATION CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD
DRAFT MINUTES
1st Floor Terra Conference Room
Tuesday, September 23, 2025
1:00P.M.

Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)
Air and Radiation Administration
Radiological Health Program (RHP)

MEMBERS PRESENT
Sean Austin, CHP (Chair)
Gregory Smith, CHP
Josephine M. Piccone, Ph.D.
Malek Daneshvar, CHP
David Bisson, CHP
David O'Neill, Ph.D.
Stewart Becker, Ph.D.
Orhan Suleiman, Ph.D.
Jeanette Linder, M.D.

MEMBERS ABSENT
Thomas Beck, Ph.D.
Anita Doreen Smith
Mahadevappa Mahesh, Ph.D.

OTHERS PRESENT
Maryland Department of the Environment Staff/Radiological Health Program (RHP):
Eva Nair, Radiological Health Program
Pamela Brooks, Radiological Health Program
Atnatiwos Meshesha, Radiological Health Program
Umaru Bun-Tejan, Radiological Health Program
Abdurahman Ablimit, Radiological Health Program
Kerry Lewis, Radiological Health Program, Recording Secretary
Tegra Snider, Radiological Health Program, Recording Secretary

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Meeting Convened
The September 2025 Radiation Control Advisory Board (RCAB) meeting was held in person at the Maryland Department of the Environment and was called to order at 1:06 p.m. by RCAB Chair, Sean Austin.

Introduction
The RCAB Chair completed roll call.

Approval of Last Minutes
The first order of business was a call for approval of the last meeting minutes. David O'Neill made a motion to accept the minutes as written and Josephine M. Piccone seconded the motion. The Board voted all in favor of approving the minutes as drafted.

OLD BUSINESS:
Ad hoc Committee Update – Extending Licensing Terms – No new updates

The RHP meeting with NRC to discuss licensing actions, specifically renewal applications and requests to extend expiration date, and other options

Eva Nair provided an update regarding the Radioactive Material Division's (RAM) licensing change of extending renewal terms from 7 to 15 years. Eva Nair noted that we will need to develop a comprehensive plan and explanation for these changes to present to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

As of July 2025, the RHP is fully staffed and will be able to process licensing actions in a timely manner. The Radioactive Materials Division has two individuals that are working a combined 30 hours per week on licensing actions to help reduce the backlog of licensing actions and train the newer licensing staff. The RHP will reassess our staffing needs, including the continued assistance of these individuals, in one year.

Status of Supplement 35

Supplement 35 was officially published September 5, 2025, and took effect September 15, 2025. This supplement reflects the NRC Regulations Amendment Tracking System (RATS 2023-1), miscellaneous corrections and update to COMAR 26-12-01-01. Supplement 36 is in the process of being updated, the proposed changes will be available to the RCAB prior to publication.

Extension of Expiration date for Medical Licensees

A suggestion was made to allow licensees with minimal changes to submit only necessary updates rather than a complete renewal application. This would streamline the licensing requirements and reduce the time involved in the renewal process.

Eva Nair indicated that this approach would have to align with NRC requirements and will provide an update once more information becomes available. At the moment, the RHP is not looking to change the process but to adhere to the Code of Maryland Regulations and NUREG guidance. MDE is looking to streamline its overall licensing requirements and is seeking volunteers to be part of the committee.

A virtual meeting is expected later this year, and it was suggested that this would be a good opportunity to comment, relay experiences, and provide feedback from the RHP's perspective.

Discussion-RHP Policy: Issuing Separate Licenses to Medical Facilities for Nuclear Medicine, HDR & LDR

The discussion covered combining licenses for medical facilities, specifically for nuclear medicine, HDR, and LDR, and the advantages of broad scope licenses. It was noted that while fees might differ, broad scope licenses can incorporate multiple practices. The separation of high-activity sources after 9/11 due to physical security requirements was also addressed, with the reasoning being for inspection policy and special security event protocols.

Radiation Machines Division Update

An overview of the Radiological Health Program was provided, detailing the number of facilities and tubes across different categories such as high-energy particle accelerators, medical therapy, mammography, hospitals, physician clinics, industries, dentals, and vets. Inspections are conducted by both private and state inspectors, with 78 private and 6 state inspectors. In response to a question from a Board member, it was noted that inspections of machines that fall into machine Groups 6-9 are performed by state inspectors.

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Radioactive Material Division Licensing Section Update

There is a total of 434 radioactive material licenses categorized as medical, industrial, and academic categories. Inspections for these licenses are prioritized based on risk significance. Our inspection categories range from 1 to 5, with Category 1 representing the most hazardous materials and Category 5 the least hazardous. The RHP maintains a 20% annual inspection coverage for out-of-state companies operating in Maryland under reciprocity agreements.

Electronic Payment System & Process Improvements

The meeting addressed challenges with payment methods for license renewals, noting that currently only checks are accepted for initial applications, while renewals can be paid online. It was highlighted that the administration's mission is to move towards an electronic payment system, with a target start date in November, though the RHP is not yet part of the initial implementation. It was suggested that a licensing portal could improve consistency in payments and reduce administrative burden.

Radiation Accident Assessment Program

The RHP staff is a part of the nuclear emergency response team that provides recommendations to the MDE Secretary in the event of a nuclear emergency, which includes evacuation or shelter-in-place guidance, livestock, ingesting KI. The team uses dose calculators and deploys field teams for dose assessment and determining the edge of the plume. MDE is evaluated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) every two years for response to Peach Bottom and Calvert Cliffs. The radioactive material inspection section has responded to over 60 incidents and allegations involving radioactive materials.

There was discussion regarding radiation overexposure incidents, mentioning an active case involving a pregnant worker who received above the annual limit of radiation exposure, a case in which the NRC is involved. The RHP has not reported any overexposure or therapeutic misadministration in several years.

Environmental Monitoring Program

MDE does not have a comprehensive environmental monitoring program, with the exception of one facility in Montgomery County that they continue to monitor since the early 2000s, in addition the team takes soil and water samples in areas of concern.

MDE/RHP

The RHP successfully completed the Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP) review by the NRC in August resulted in preliminary "satisfactory" ratings across all indicators, including staffing, licensing, inspections, and incident allegations. They noted that the NRC recognized the significant progress made with staffing issues and that a final rating from the management review board is expected after their December 9th meeting.

Eva Nair clarified that the Maryland Department of the Environment’s radiation control program is self-sufficient, with revenue generated from annual licenses and registrations fees. They emphasized that the collected fees are directly allocated to a special radiation control fund exclusively for radiation-related activities, though the Board of Public Works can access these funds if needed.

MDE-RHP Concerns about Executive Order 14300

There was a discussion focused on concerns about Executive Order 14300 (2025) and its potential impact on radiation protection training and regulations, acknowledging that widespread changes

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could have cascading effects on their program. It was mentioned that there are ongoing meetings involving NRC and agreement states.

Small Modular Reactors and Data Centers

Companies are applying for permits for data centers in Maryland. As of yet, there have not been any companies that have filed an application to build small modular reactors in Maryland. The Board expressed interest in future presentations from companies designing small modular reactors to understand potential issues related to building and operating these facilities within the state.

Any Other Business:

There was no new business for the Board.

Next Meeting Date:

Next meeting was suggested for Spring of 2026.

Meeting Adjourned:

The meeting was adjourned at 2:42 PM.

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