

**MARYLAND RADIATION CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD
DRAFT MINUTES
Aries Conference Room
Tuesday, March 19, 2024
1:00P.M.**

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

MEMBERS PRESENT

**Sean Austin, CHP (Chair)
Jeanette Linder, M.D.-virtual
Gregory Smith, CHP -virtual
Josephine M. Piccone, Ph.D.-virtual
Malek Daneshvar, CHP -virtual
David Bisson, CHP-virtual
David O'Neill, Ph.D.
Stewart Becker, Ph.D.
Thomas Beck, Ph.D.
Mr. John S. Wojtowycz**

MEMBERS ABSENT

**Ms. Anita Doreen Smith
Mahadevappa Mahesh, Ph.D.**

OTHERS PRESENT

General Public Attendance

**Chris Mielke
Michele Ditzel**

Maryland Department of the Environment Staff/Radiological Health Program (RHP):

**Ms. Shannon Page, Radiological Health Program
Mr. Atnatiwos Meshesha, Radiological Health Program
Mr. Umaru Bun-Tejan, Radiological Health Program
Mr. Abdurahman Ablimit, Radiological Health Program
Ms. Kerry Lewis, Radiological Health Program**

Ms. Garnet Sewell, Radiological Health Program, Recording Secretary

Meeting Convened

The March 2024 Radiation Control Advisory Board (RCAB) meeting was held in person at the Maryland Department of the Environment and virtually on Google Meets and was called to order at 01:06 p.m. by RCAB Chair, Sean Austin.

Introduction

The RCAB Chair completed roll call.

The first order of business was a call for approval for the last meetings 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:

The Chair drafted a letter regarding a regulation change to part J, SEC. J. 13, 'Notification and Reports to Individuals.' The Board held a discussion about the letter, the pros and cons of the recommendations contained in it, and the cost to licensees and registrants to implement the current regulations. Approval and guidance will be sought from the RHP program manager prior to submission to the Secretary of MDE regarding the MDE Letterhead. These changes would mirror NRC and CRCPD current regulations.

The Chair called for a motion to approve the letter as drafted, which was made by John Wojtowycz and seconded by Malek Daneshvar. The draft letter was approved by all members.

Review of Supplement 33

There were no changes to the regulations, the feedback from the previous board meeting was applied as the supplement.

Review of Supplement 34

Miscellaneous edits in addition to paragraph removals as required by the NRC were done. This supplement is strictly for radioactive material and is currently with the Division of State Documents (DSD).

MDE/ RHP Staffing Update

The RHP is currently fully staffed. Radioactive Materials Licensing staff are receiving training from an employee who is also working part-time for RHP. The staff is receiving assistance to become fully qualified license reviewers.

RAM Licenses

To assist with the RAM licensing current high work volume, the Chair inquired if the expiration dates for RAM license can be extended to reduce staff workload.

To reduce renewal time, it was suggested by Malek Daneshvar to incorporate a short form for renewal of RAM license, to indicate that the facility has not experienced any changes and look into the NRC's process as a parallel example.

David Bisson suggested to pull resources from other areas that are fully staffed with the NRC taking precedence, also mentioned was that the NRC extend expiration renewals with no significant changes.

The chairman called for a motion to form an ad hoc committee to make recommendations to RHP to improve the license review process for the program and investigate requesting the NRC extend expiration to up to 15 years. The motion was made by Dr. Jeanett Linder and seconded by Dr. David O'Neill. The entire board agreed. Dr. Stewart Becker, Malek Daneshvar and Gregory Smith volunteered to serve on the ad hoc committee

Dr. Jeanette Linder suggested expediting renewal by using the list of criteria that constitutes compliance for renewal to use as a check mark to make it easier once all criteria have been met, which would take minutes instead of days; and to see what forms NRC uses to parallel to see if it would be comparable.

Shannon Page informed the board that there would have to be some change in regulations via the regulations committee for some of the suggestions to be implemented.

Atna Meshesha informed that RAM has only one fully qualified license reviewer and working to qualify can take up to 7 years due to the various steps to qualification. Dr. David O'Neill spoke to the level of competition between states whereas once a license reviewer becomes qualified, other states will have the opportunity to recruit them. Dr. Stewart Becker suggested that RHP get outside state qualified personnel for licensing. Shannon Page informed the board that all suggestions will be looked into.

Incidents or Concerns Regarding Radioactive Materials or Medical Incidents

No significant concerns were expressed.

Dr David O'Neill and the chair inquired about Neutron Products Inc. Atna Meshesha gave an update on their periodic inspection and monitoring to the board.

RCAB Meeting Inquiries

Dr Stewart Becker asked about additional information needed for a license renewal.

Online License Tracking System

The Chair inquired about an online system which would allow licensees to track their license status. Shannon Page advised, due to the sensitivity of the information, the RHP does not have an online database for licensees to use for monitoring the license request status. If required, a Public Information Act (PIA) request can be submitted. David Bisson suggested looking into other states as a model.

Any Other Business:

Radiology Technologist Training

There was a discussion with Chris Mielke and Michele Ditzel, members of the public who had concerns about a Bill regarding radiology technology training and certification be best suited for in person/hands on or online training that may potentially lower the standards of x-ray.

The Chair suggested the issue was not in the purview of the Radiation Control Advisory Board but rather should be directed to their elected representatives, Maryland Department of Health (MDH) or Governor regarding that Bill.

Dental Apron Requirements

The Regulations Committee is reviewing and evaluating CRCPD recommended use of dental aprons. The committee is in the process of phrasing the regulation to cover all aspects of apron coverage to benefit everyone. Dr. Jeanette Linder suggested objective statistics be made available to make decisions in assisting with phrasing the regulation.

Board Member Stepping Down

Board member, Mr. John S. Wojtowycz, announced that he will be stepping down at the end of his current term.

Next Meeting Date:

Next meeting was suggested for Summer of 2024

Meeting Adjourned:

The meeting was adjourned at 2:43pm.