

Executive Summary

Amendments to 25 Pa. Code, Article V, Chapters 215-221, 223, 225, 227, 228, 230 and 240 Radiological Health

The Department of Environmental Protection (Department) recommends amendments to Article V (relating to radiological health) for consideration by the Environmental Quality Board (Board).

Summary and Purpose of the Proposed Rulemaking

Amendments are proposed to radiological health chapters to update the standards for the safe use of radiation sources. The chapters being amended are 215, General Provisions; 216, Registration of Radiation-Producing Machines and Radiation-Producing Machine Service Providers; 217, Licensing of Radioactive Material; 218, Fees; 219, Standards for Protection Against Radiation; 220, Notices, Instructions and Reports to Workers; Inspections and Investigations; 221, X-rays in the Healing Arts; 223, Veterinary Medicine; 225, Radiation Safety Requirements for Industrial Radiographic Operations; 227, Radiation Safety Requirements for Analytical X-ray Equipment, X-ray Gauging Equipment, Electron Microscopes and X-ray Calibration Systems; 228, Radiation Safety Requirements for Particle Accelerators; 230, Packaging and Transportation of Radioactive Material, and 240, Radon Certification.

The proposed amendments to Chapters 215-221, 223, 225, 227, 228, and 230 are needed to establish and maintain adequate radiation protection standards and oversight due to significant technological advances in the use of radiation sources and are based on standards set by the current recognized accrediting bodies and national organizations such as the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP) and the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD).

The radon certification regulations were first promulgated in 1991 and, other than minor amendments in 2004, 2008, and 2009, have not been significantly revised. The purpose of the proposed rulemaking is to revise the radon certification application requirements and the reporting requirements for certified radon service providers to add clarity to both processes. Additionally, the amendments to the testing and mitigation protocol requirements and the quality assurance and quality control requirements would provide greater detail regarding how these programs should be designed and what goals they should accomplish.

Affected Parties

Those persons to be affected by the regulation include any individual, corporation, institution, group, or agency which uses radiation sources. There are approximately 11,000 X-ray machine registrants, 825 radioactive material licensees, 150 accelerator licensees, 325 X-ray service providers, and about 600 entities performing certified radon activities.

Advisory Groups

The Department discussed the need for regulatory revisions with its Radiation Protection Advisory Committee (RPAC) on October 16, 2014; December 11, 2014; April 2, 2015; June 4, 2015; and, July 23, 2015. RPAC provided extensive input to the amendments and endorsed moving forward with a proposed rulemaking on July 23, 2015.

Public Comments

The recommended public comment period is 45 days. No public hearings or meetings are recommended.