

**DRAFT Minutes of the Radiation Protection Advisory Committee (RPAC) Meeting
14th Floor Conference Room
Rachel Carson State Office Building, Harrisburg, PA
April 2, 2015**

Call to order – 9:07 a.m.

Members in Attendance:

John Keklak	Margaret Blackwood
Eric Boeldt	Janice Wirth
Kent Lambert	Anthony Montagnese
Shawn McNeely	Michael Sheetz
Eric Miller	Vincent Roding
Joseph Och	

Members Absent:

Douglas Eggli	William Thorne
Charles Chambers	Peter Smith
Charles Stoup	John Pammer
Richard Purse	Paul Houle
Michele Tate	

DEP Staff in Attendance:

David Allard	Niki Noll
Joseph Melnic	Kristina Hoffman
John Winston	Dyran Altenburg
John Chippo	Terry Derstine
Keith Salador	Lisa Funk
Bob Zaccano	Lisa Forney

Guests in Attendance:

Gene Weinberg, PaDOH
Student from Bucknell University

Introduction of Members and Staff:

Mr. Allard welcomed everyone, including newest RPAC member Eric Miller, and introduced the Bureau of Radiation Protection's (BRP) new X-ray and Accelerator supervisor, Lisa Funk. Also welcomed was Gene Weinberg from the PA Department of Health (DOH).

Adoption of Agenda:

Today's agenda was approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

Meeting minutes from December 11, 2014, were approved unanimously.

Open Floor:

The meeting opened with the unanimous re-election of the RPAC Chair, John Keklak, and Vice-chair, Margaret Blackwood.

Mr. Robert Zaccano, RP manager from DEP's South-central regional office announced that the Department will be using a new head phantom during inspections at dental facilities. The new phantom will allow inspectors to discuss the importance of optimizing the X-ray machine to give the best image at the lowest dose.

The Department requested members to review the RPAC bylaws. Questions and concerns will be addressed during the next meeting.

Low-Dose CT Lung Cancer Screening

The Department invited a representative from the DOH, Mr. Gene Weinberg, Epidemiologist Manager, to discuss the issue of lung cancer screening. With the recent approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for screening reimbursements, a concern needs to be addressed regarding individuals getting screened without a doctor's prescription. Even at 'low dose' this CT scan exceeds the threshold for greater than 1 millisievert (mSv) dose, thus requiring consultation with DOH. Currently, if a physician writes a prescription, the scan falls outside DEP's authority for *healing arts screening* approval.

Radiation Protection Program Update:

Radiation Control

The NRC Periodic IMPEP review scheduled for May 5, 2015, has been postponed until June 2, 2015.

The regulatory revision to Chapter 215, regarding the incorporation by reference of Part 37 (Security Rule), was published in the PA Bulletin on March 21, 2015, with a 30-day comment period.

Regulatory revisions regarding fees are moving forward with the concurrence of RPAC, noting their comments and concerns are being addressed.

The PA House has reintroduced the medical physicist licensure bill. The Department also heard there is some interest in radiological technologist licensure.

TENORM Study

The report was released in January 2015 and is available to the public. It concluded that there is little potential for harm to workers or the public from radiation exposure due to oil and gas development. The full report can be accessed at the following link:

http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/oil_gas_related_topics/20349/radiation_protection/986697.

Radon

The Department continued its monitoring of very high radon levels in a Lehigh County, Saucon Valley neighborhood. Initial investigation confirmed more than 10 houses with radon measurements exceeding 1,000 pCi/L. The highest was 3,700 pCi/L, and the residents of that home were encouraged to evacuate until remediation could be performed. The family did evacuate. A remediation system was installed and lowered the radon level to less than 3 pCi/L. (EPA and DEP recommend remediation for any home measuring greater than 4 pCi/L.)

Nuclear Safety

The Department will participate in a federally evaluated exercise scheduled for Three Mile Island on April 14, 2015. Governor Wolf and DEP Acting Secretary Quigley will be observing the exercise from the PEMA Emergency Operations Center.

Regulatory Revisions

Radiological Health Revisions

Chapters 219-223 - The following sections were discussed and suggestions/comments were offered:

- Section 219.229(b)(1) – Recommendation to add “by phone” for notifications to BRP; however, email or any other type of notification will be accepted.
- Section 221.2 – In QMP definition, delete “or radiation protection” in (i)(D); delete (ii)(A) and (E); change “Has been granted certification” to “Is certified”; add preceptor attestation statement to (iii). Mike Sheetz offered to assist with the final revision.
- Section 221.2 – In “Unintended dose” definition, include equipment malfunction.
- Section 221.11(l) – Change record retention back to 3 years. Move subsection (o) to (l).
- Section 221.35a(d)(1) – Change “procedures” to “studies” and “protocols” to “procedures.” In subsection (iv) change SRDL values from “following nationally recognized standards” to “referencing or consistent with nationally recognized standards.”
- Section 221.35a(d)(2) – Delete first sentence because it is redundant: “A record of each protocol shall be maintained for inspection by the Department.” (The Department will reconsider this recommendation.)
- Section 221.57 – Refer as “DR” rather than “DDR” and in subsection (c) change “quarterly” to “annually” due to system stability. (The Department will reconsider this recommendation.)
- Section 221.64(a)(3) – Delete first sentence and note “nationally recognized guidelines.”
- Section 221.65 – Change title from “CT Systems” to “X-ray attenuation systems” and use “registrant” rather than “QMP.”
- Section 221.201 – The formula for CTDI should change +7T and -7T to +5T and -5T and add (cm) to T section thickness.
- Section 221.202(a) – Add to Accreditation “effective within one year from acquisition of first patient use.”

- Section 221.204(a)(4)(ix) – Add “improve image quality or lower patient dose...”. Change “and implementation of new and innovative” to “of alternate.”
- Section 221.204(a)(4)(x) – Delete “image quality” and renumber last three subsections.
- Section 221.204(b)(2)(iii) – Delete “Spatial resolution (low and high contrast)” and add “artifact evaluation.” Consider using SR-F’s version.
- Section 223.31 – Move Administrative Controls and rename section to 223.14. Ensure the same operator protection is maintained during research with animals.

Other Business:

The committee was encouraged to continue sending email suggestions and comments prior to the meetings.

The next RPAC meeting is scheduled for June 4, 2015, at which action on the draft proposed rulemaking will be requested.

Adjournment – 3:02 p.m.