



**TEXAS RADIATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES**  
TOPIC RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Friday, April 21, 2023  
8:30 a.m.

**1. Call to Order**

Darshan Sachde, Ph.D., Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. A quorum was present.

**2. Roll call of committee members present.**

Members present: John Hageman, M.S., C.H.P.; Mark Harvey, DrPH; William Pate, DrPH; Darshan Sachde, DrPH; Tim Powell; and Roland Benke

Department of State Health Services (DSHS) staff present: Lisa Bruedigan, Gem Naivar, Walquira Sanchez, Jay Pavlica, Shannon Quinn, Karl Von Ahn, and Brian Vamvakias

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) staff present: Chance Goodin

Guests present: Brian Christian (ARDT), Cristina Madrid (State Energy Conservation Office), and Luke Cogburn (Texas Division of Emergency Management)

**3. Review and, as needed, discuss, and take possible action concerning amendment and approval of January 20, 2023, TRAB Topic Research Committee meeting minutes.**

Mr. Powell made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Hageman seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

**4. Public Comments**

None

**5. Routine and Continuing Business**

**A. High-Level Waste disposal**

No update was provided.

**B. Review of previous TRAB position statements**

The committee discussed and reviewed these three advisory statements:

1) Advisory Statement for a Better Understanding of Radiation

Dr. Pate stated that the updates for this statement are straightforward. Mr. Hageman asked if we should include the first paragraph of the Advisory Statement on Sealed Source Disposal regarding what the TRAB is and does at the beginning of this Statement.

2) Advisory Statement on Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel in Texas

After reviewing TCEQ's comments, Dr. Pate stated that there is a question of if this statement needs to be maintained on our list of position statements as it has been determined by state law in past legislation that we are not allowed to store spent fuel in the state of Texas. It was decided to wait for recommendations from the INUW Committee.

3) Advisory Statement on Sealed Source Disposal

Some discussion was had regarding this Statement. Dr. Pate recommended that we wait for the recommendations from the INUW Committee.

Dr. Sachde asked that the committee members send their editorial comments on these statements to him so he can compile them and send them to Lisa Bruedigan at DSHS for review.

**6. New Business:**

**A. Licensed Medical Physicists Scope of Practice (Pate)**

This presentation was deferred to the full TRAB meeting.

**B. 2023 Strategic Plan Update (All)**

Dr. Pate stated that the final draft was sent out that included the recommendations of all the groups.

**C. Review of DSHS Rule Changes**

Brian Vamvakias gave the committee members an update on the progress of the rule changes in a handout.

**D. Directed Energy Beams**

Dr. Benke discussed this topic with the committee and asked for input from DSHS. Ms. Bruedigan asked Dr. Benke to share any articles or information that he may have on this topic.

**E. Identify any additional topics that need further research to be addressed by the TRAB Topic Research Committee**

None.

**F. Identify topics to recommend for further discussion and to be addressed at future meetings of the Topic Research Committee; Medical Committee; Industrial, Nuclear Power, Uranium, and Waste (INUW) Committee; or TRAB**

No topics were discussed.

**7. Summarize the TRAB Topic Research Committee meeting and recommendations for Committee Report and proposed action items for TRAB or future agenda items for TRAB, the Medical Committee, the Topic Research Committee, or the INUW Committee**

Dr. Sachde summarized the topics covered in this meeting.

**8. Adjourn**

Dr. Pate motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Powell seconded this motion. Dr. Sachde adjourned the meeting at 8:58 a.m.