



**Department of State Health Services (DSHS)  
Program Report to the Texas Radiation Advisory Board  
(TRAB) Consumer Protection Division**

**June 26, 2020**

**Business Filing and Verification Section**

**Radioactive Material Unit – Karl Von Ahn, Manager**

As of August 1, 2019, we started entering and storing licensing and other documents on an internal SharePoint site. The goal is to switch to an electronic filing system instead of adding to our paper-based records and microfiche.

As of December 4, 2019, the RAM licensing section discontinued filing hardcopy licensing documents. The official records are now contained electronically in an internal SharePoint site.

The licensing staff have continued to work throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Some staff are working in the office, with the others working from home on a rotating schedule.

Having electronic files in SharePoint has allowed staff to continue processing applications from home without taking hardcopy files home. When staff are in the office, they scan newly received documents, and print and sign completed license actions.

The industrial radiography program has not been able to conduct certification exams due to the pandemic restrictions. We obtained a rule waiver from the governor to permit us to issue "timely renewal" letters to radiographers whose licenses were expiring. The individuals will need to complete the certification exams once the pandemic restrictions are lifted and we can resume testing.

**Radiation Surveillance Section-Radiation Unit**

**Radioactive Materials Inspection Group – Eric Skotak, Manager**  
**Mammography and Remote Inspections Group – Trae Windham, Manager**  
**X-Ray Group – Shannon Quinn and Stephanie Lopez, Managers**  
**Environmental Monitoring Group – Bob Free, Manager**

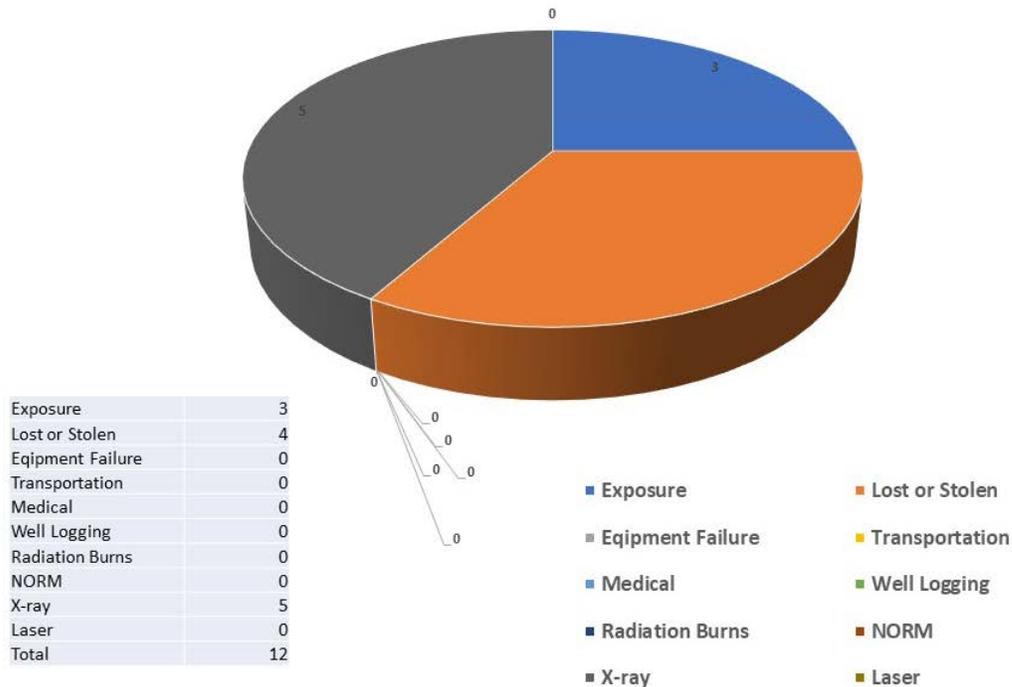
Over the last few months, we have been utilizing alternative means to conduct inspections when possible with an emphasis on complaint investigations and areas that need pre-licensing inspections to open their business. The programs are starting to increase fieldwork at this time. Routine inspections will resume as long as distancing guidelines can be followed. The programs have tried to balance our regulatory presence with the stay at home orders issued across the state to help decrease the spread of COVID-19 as much as possible.

**Environmental Monitoring Group – Bob Free, Manager**

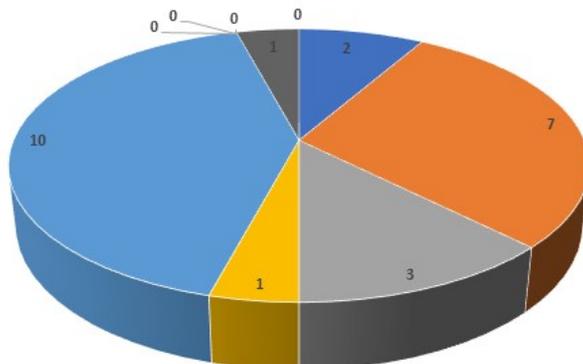
**Incident Investigations:**

There were no significant events reported during this reporting period. The pie charts below reflect the numbers and categories of incidents and complaints received during this reporting period.

Complaints from February 1, 2020 - April 30, 2020



Incidents from February 1, 2020 - April 30, 2020



Exposure	2
Lost or Stolen	7
Equipment Failure	3
Transportation	1
Medical	10
Well Logging	0
Radiation Burns	0
MNORM	0
X-ray	1
Laser	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>

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**South Texas Project (STP):**

DSHS continues to monitor and respond to emails, phone calls, and conference calls regarding COVID-19 updates for STP and Matagorda County. Planning is currently underway for the upcoming evaluated exercise. Additionally, DSHS is working with STP and Matagorda County to prepare for the upcoming hospital medical drill as well as conducting planning meetings and submit required documents for FEMA review.

**Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant (CP):**

There were no Comanche Peak Nuclear Plant (CP) exercises or major activities for DSHS during this period. DSHS continues to monitor and respond to emails, phone calls, and conference calls regarding COVID-19 updates regarding Comanche Peak and Hood and Somervell Counties. Also, DSHS is monitoring activities at the Comanche Peak designated hospitals, Lake Granbury Medical Center (LGMC) and Texas Health Cleburne (THC), for issues that could affect their ability to assist contaminated injured workers at their

facilities. These monitoring activities have also been coordinated with FEMA Region VI in Denton.

**Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP):**

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Department of Energy has limited the shipments of transuranic waste through Texas to the WIPP site located southeast of Carlsbad, New Mexico. Only one shipment from the Savannah River site was transported through Texas since March. As of May 20<sup>th</sup>, there are no WIPP shipments scheduled for the Southeast Region in the next eight weeks.

Seven radiological instrument sets were inspected, calibrated, and reissued to emergency first responders in Taylor county located in and along the Interstate Highway 20 WIPP transportation route.

Also, a total of five WIPP related briefings were provided to 12 local officials in Taylor county.

**Pantex:**

Planning for the FY2021 Pantex exercise is underway. However, with COVID-19, we are encountering some issues with the scheduling of the exercise. We will remain as flexible as possible to get this exercise accomplished.

Jose Trevino was asked to participate as an observer for the June Pantex exercise, this exercise has been rescheduled as a result of COVID-19.

DSHS staff are working on updating procedures and plans to bring them up to date.

**Compliance Section**

**Environmental and Radiation Control Unit – Alyson Henry**

From January – April 2020, the Compliance Section issued 140 Orders against individuals and companies that were found to have violated the Texas Regulations for Control of Radiation (25 Texas Administrative Code §§289.201 – 302). These Orders have resulted in the assessment of \$229,805.00 in administrative penalties. Twelve X-ray registrations and six laser registrations were revoked during this period.

## **Policy, Standards, and Quality Assurance Section**

### **Radiation Unit – Brian Vamvakias, Manager**

Upcoming rules:

- §289.233, Radiation Control Regulations for Radiation Machines used in Veterinary Medicine. A draft is being reviewed internally. The anticipated schedule is for the draft rule to be available for public review in July 2020, the proposed rule in September 2020 and the final rule to be effective in January 2021.
- §289.226, Radiation Control Regulations for Registration of Radiation Machines Use and Services will be revised to meet 4-year review requirements. The Rules Notification Form (RNF) has been approved. PSQA is still working on a draft for internal review. Optimistically, the department will have a draft ready for public review in September 2020, a proposed rule in December 2020, and a final rule effective in early 2021.
- Medical Use of Byproduct Material (NRC 10 CFR 30, 32, and 35) rule changes became effective January 2019. Texas must amend the associated Sections in Chapter 289 TAC by January 2022. PSQA staff is developing an RNF for approval to start the project and working on a draft for internal review.