



Texas Radiation Advisory Board
P.O. Box 149347, Mail Code 2835
Austin, Texas 78714-9347
John Hageman, M.S., C.H.P.
Chairman of the Texas Radiation Advisory Board

December 9, 2016

Dr. John Hellerstedt
Commissioner
Texas Department of State Health Services
P.O. Box 149347
Austin, TX 78714-9347

Dear Dr. Hellerstedt,

Attached is the Texas Radiation Advisory Board's Annual Report to the Commissioner, covering activities of the Board for Fiscal Year 2016 (September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2016). This report is required by 25 TAC §289.130(n).

Should you have any questions about this report, please contact me either by phone at (210) 522-2633 or by email at john.hageman@swri.org.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John P. Hageman".

John P. Hageman M.S., C.H.P.
Chairman

Attachment

**TEXAS RADIATION ADVISORY BOARD FISCAL YEAR 2016
ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMISSIONER**

This report summarizes the activities of the Texas Radiation Advisory Board (TRAB or Board) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 (September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2016) as required by 25 TAC §289.130(n).

The TRAB was created by the Texas Radiation Control Act pursuant to the Texas Health and Safety Code, Section 401.015. The Board normally consists of 18 members, appointed by the Governor, and consisting of 15 Subject Matter Experts in radiation and 3 members of the public. The Board includes a chair, a vice-chair, and a secretary who are elected by and from the TRAB's membership. Members of the Board receive no compensation for their service, except for reimbursement for travel expenses incurred while attending meetings or engaging in authorized Board business. Members are trained by the Texas Department of State Health Service regarding their responsibilities and their limitations under the open meetings requirements.

The TRAB is organized and directed to review and evaluate state radiation policies and programs; and to make recommendations and furnish technical advice to the following state agencies:

- the Texas Department of State Health Service (DSHS)
- the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
- the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC)
- any other state agencies or groups that may be involved with radiation safety, such as the Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Commission (TLLRWDC)

The TRAB is to review proposed rules and guidelines of any State agency relating to the regulation of sources of radiation, and to recommend changes in proposed or existing rules and guidelines relating to these issues.

Meetings

The TRAB is required by statute to meet at least quarterly, on dates set by the Board. Special meetings may be called by the TRAB Chairman or its committees, which consist of TRAB members. Board meetings may be held at any designated place in the state, determined by the Chairman, to best serve the purpose for which the meeting is called. All meetings held during FY 2016 were held in Austin, Texas, to minimize meeting expenses and to provide for the best use of staff resources from the various state agencies. Table 1, TRAB Meetings, gives the attendance at the quarterly and teleconference meetings held in FY 2016.

Table 1 - TRAB Meetings: The TRAB consists of 18 appointed members. A quorum, of at least 10 members in attendance, was obtained at the following FY 2016 meetings.

Meeting Date	Meeting Type	Attendance	
		Present	Absent
September 18, 2015	Quarterly Meeting	12	6
October 29, 2015	Teleconference	13	5
December 4, 2015	Quarterly Meeting	12	6
February 5, 2016	Quarterly Meeting	10	8
April 12, 2016	Teleconference	11	7

Board Actions in FY 2016

The TRAB elected officers at their September 18, 2015, meeting. By acclamation, the results are: Mr. John Hageman, Chairman; Dr. Nora Janjan, Vice-Chairman; and Mr. Bill Campbell, Secretary.

Board Resolutions and Recommendations

The Board endorsed the TCEQ proposed rules, Chapter 336, Physical Protection of Category 1 and 2 Quantities of Radioactive Material, published in the Texas Register, at its September 18, 2015 meeting.

The Board approved a letter to the Department of State Health Services Interim Commissioner, Kirk Cole, requesting the reimplementation of the fluoroscopy safety training, required by 25 Tex. Administrative Code §289.227(m)(9)(E), at its October 29, 2015 Teleconference.

The Board approved a letter to the Department of State Health Services Commissioner, Dr. John Hellerstedt, requesting the reimplementation of the fluoroscopy safety training, required by 25 Tex. Administrative Code §289.227(m)(9)(E), at its April 12, 2016, Teleconference.

Other Activities for the TRAB

At the September 18, 2015 meeting:

- The Board presented a resolution to honor Mr. Roger Mulder for his service as the Texas Governor's State Liaison to the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission and to the TRAB.
- Mr. Grant Chambless presented the radiation safety role of the Railroad Commission of Texas for the oil and gas production industry.
- Dr. Smith, of CartoFusion Technologies, gave a presentation on "SituMap," a software mapping applications for emergency response management, planning, and coordination in real-time basis.
- Ms. Judy Raab, Board member, gave a presentation on Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM) Related to Oil and Gas Production.

At the December 4, 2015, meeting:

- The Board presented a resolution to honor Dr. David Nichols for his service on the TRAB.
- Dr. Suresh Pillai presented information on the electron beam facility, at Texas A&M University. The A&M National Center for Electron Beam Research (NCEBR) is the leading academic and research organization in the world that is focused on the research, development, and commercialization of Electron Beam and X-ray technologies.

At the February 5, 2016, meeting:

- Mr. Bob Free (DSHS) and John Hageman (TRAB) discussed the Nuclear Sector Working Group, which is tasked to develop a Preventive Radiological and Detection Program. This program will use radiation detectors for law enforcement agents and fire department personnel to preventively detect radiological and nuclear materials that may be intended for terrorist activities.
- Dr. Darlene Metter (TRAB) discussed the shutdown of the Canadian reactor and the impact on the much needed supply of technetium-99m, which is essential for many nuclear medicine diagnoses.

At the April 12, 2016, Teleconference Stacey McLarty, DSHS attorney, discussed open meeting matters relevant to the Board's meetings.

Activities Planned for FY 2017

The focus of the Board for FY 2017 will be on the following areas:

- The Health and Human Services System (HHSS) Transformation Plan.
- Updates and changes to the DSHS Radiation Control Program organization as a result of the GAO audit.
- Continue discussions on the need to make the public aware of the actual/minimal risks of regulated radiation exposures:
 - That are generally less than natural background radiation exposures
 - That provide benefits in medical diagnosis and therapy
 - That provide benefits from power generated from nuclear power
 - That provide safety benefits from industrial inspections and testing
 - That assist in oil and gas production
- Continue the review of and comment on the storage and/or disposal of low and high-level nuclear waste in Texas.
- Continue the review of and comment on the status of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), used for disposal of transuranic radioactive material in New Mexico, in regards to Texas.
- Review and comment on the potential for new nuclear power plants in Texas.
- Follow the incorporation of the most current American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standards Z136.1 to Z136.9, dealing with the Safe Use of Lasers in various facilities (e.g., medical facilities, research facilities, etc.) into the Texas regulations.
- Continue to review and comment on any regulations and necessary improvements dealing with radiation used in the healing arts.
- Continue to review and comment on regulations and policies on the assurance that industrial radioactive material users, radioactive waste disposals, and drinking water supplies remain as safe as is reasonably possible.
- Continue to research and identify radiation safety related issues facing Texas.

TRAB Membership

The Board consists of 18 members, including those appointed in June 2016. The TRAB Committees for FY-2017 consist of the following members, their area of representation, TRAB/Committee position, and year of appointment expiration:

Medical Committee (quorum 5 of 9):

- Darlene Metter, Nuclear Medicine, Committee Chair , 2019
- Mark Silberman, Pathology, Committee Vice Chair, 2017
- Robert Emery, Hospital Administration, 2017
- Mark Harvey, Nuclear Physics in Medicine, 2021
- Frank “Neal” Leavell, Dentistry, 2021
- Simon Trubek, Radiology, 2021
- Bill Campbell, Insurance, 2019
- John Johnson, Agriculture/Veterinarian, TRAB Secretary, 2017
- Karen Cuneo Newton, Public Representative, 2017

Industrial, Nuclear Power, Uranium and Waste Committee (quorum 5 of 9):

- Mitch Lucas, Nuclear Utilities, Committee Chair, TRAB Vice Chair, 2019
- Kevin Raabe, Uranium Mining, Committee Vice Chair, 2017
- Kenneth Krieger, Industry, 2021
- Melissa “Missy” Shorey, Public Representative, 2021
- John Hageman, Health Physicist, TRAB Chair, 2017
- Gerald (Tim) Powell, Radioactive Waste, 2021
- Stephen Harris, Labor Representative, 2019
- Judith M. (Judy) Raab, Petroleum Well Service, 2019
- Darshan Sachde, Public Representative, 2019

Topic Research Committee (quorum 3 of 5):

- Robert Emery, Hospital Administration, Committee Chair, 2017
- Darshan Sachde, Public Representative, Committee Vice Chair, 2019
- Mark Harvey, Nuclear Physics in Medicine, 2021
- John Hageman, Health Physicist, TRAB Chair, 2017
- Gerald (Tim) Powell, Radioactive Waste, 2021

At the September 23, 2016 meeting of FY-2017, officer elections were held and the following members were elected by acclamation:

- John Hageman, Health Physicist, TRAB Chair
- Mitch Lucas, Nuclear Utilities, TRAB Vice Chair
- John Johnson, Agriculture/Veterinarian, TRAB Secretary

TRAB Expenses for FY 2016

The FY-2016 expenses were \$ 23,638.03; and consisted of:

- (i) TRAB members' reimbursements of \$9,424.03 for travel and per diem,
- (ii) DSHS staff salaries of \$ 13,722.40 expended in direct support of TRAB, and
- (iii) \$ 491.60 in other operating expenses.

The total expenses incurred for TRAB meetings, for FY-2016 were up by \$455.03 from FY-2015.