

## **Texas Radiation Advisory Board (TRAB)**

**DSHS Division:** CPD

**DSHS Support Staff:**

- Lisa Bruedigan, Director III, Radiation Section
- Gem Naivar, Environmental Protection Specialist III, Inspection Unit/Mammography Group, Radiation Section

### **Board Charge Description**

The Texas Radiation Advisory Board (TRAB) reviews and evaluates state radiation policies, programs, and proposed rules. The board also makes recommendations and provides technical advice that may be required on matters relating to the development, use, and regulation of sources of radiation. The board develops and implements policies that provide the public with a reasonable opportunity to appear at public meetings and speak on any issue under the jurisdiction of the advisory board.

The board is required to comply with OMA and meet four times per year.

### **Recommendations for DSHS Commissioner or HHS Executive Commissioner**

TRAB made no recommendations for CY 2023.

### **Report of Board Activities in Calendar Year 2023**

The board met the required number of times during the reporting period for CY 2023 (four times per year).

CY 2023 actions taken by the board, including tasks established by statute and rule include the following:

1. Reviewed and made recommendations on updates to TRAB Position Statements:
  - a. A Better Understanding of Radiation – updated with recommended changes,
  - b. Sealed Source Disposal – Retired as no longer applicable, and
  - c. Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel – Retired as no longer applicable; and
2. Approved new TRAB Position Statement on the Shortage of Radiation Protection Specialists.

TRAB reported that some recommendations were adopted into agency rules and policies:

Considered reviews by TRAB members and outside subject matter experts in updating DSHS rules:

1. X-Ray (Major Revision): 25 TAC §289.229
2. Laser (Major Revision): 25 TAC §289.301

3. Random Access Memory or RAM (Minor Updates for Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Compatibility)
4. 25 TAC §289.201, §289.202, §289.253, §289.255, §289.256, §289.257, and §289.258

### **Recommendations for Calendar Year 2024 and Beyond**

The board reported the following anticipated activities in CY 2024:

1. Bring new technologies and issues to the program, and
2. share high interest presentations at the TRAB Board Meetings:
  - a. High Energy Laser Presentation, and
  - b. Presentation of CM22 exercise held in Austin in May 2022.

This committee is recommended for continuation based on the following:

- TRAB represents a cross-section of our stakeholders and provides input on new technologies and issues that are encountered by both the program and our stakeholders,
- Provides subject-matter and stakeholder input to proposed regulatory changes that can be considered prior to formalizing final rules, and
- Additional opportunities are provided for the public to provide input on issues related to the use and regulation of radiation in Texas.

The recent duties of this board do not result in opportunities to consolidate it with other internal or external advisory committees.

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