



PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION
Center for Health Protection, Radiation Protection Services
Kate Brown, Governor


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INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN 2015-04

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To: Oregon Radioactive Materials Licensees and Electronic Product Registrants

From: David M. Howe, Program Director 
Radiation Protection Services

Subject: **Oregon Administrative Rule Variance and Exemption Requests- Review and Approval Process**

Oregon Health Authority, Radiation Protection Services (RPS) is issuing this informational bulletin to inform registrants and licensees of a new process for the review and approval of variance and exemption requests relating to RPS Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR), Chapter 333, Divisions 100-124. *Effective immediately, any OAR written variance requests will be evaluated by RPS staff and then presented to the State Radiation Advisory Committee (RAC) for review before final RPS approval or denial is determined.* A limited duration variance will be granted for an “emergency situation” when there is an imminent threat to patient, worker or public safety. A limited duration variance will also undergo a full RPS evaluation and RAC review in order to be approved or denied as a long-term or permanent variance.

All variance requests are evaluated by RPS staff against existing OAR(s) and federal regulations, Conference of Radiation Control program Directors “Suggested State Regulations” (SSR’s) and best practices. Patient accessibility to health care, and health and safety implications are also taken into consideration.

In the past, RPS management has presented select variance requests to RAC for review based upon the above and potential larger systemic issues. RAC members possess technical knowledge and expertise, and represent the interests of all registrants and licensees. They serve as an objective sounding board for RPS staff to make prudent and reasonable decisions.

RPS will begin presenting all pending requests to the RAC at the next scheduled meeting on June 10, 2015. In order to be evaluated at any future RAC meeting, requests must be in writing and received by RPS at least 30 days before each RAC meeting (second Wednesday of February, June, and October). RPS intends to make a final approval/denial decision within two weeks of each RAC meeting (depending upon whether there is additional research needed as a result of the RAC review).

If you have questions, please contact RPS Licensing Manager Todd Carpenter at todd.s.carpenter@state.or.us or by phone at 971-673-0500.