**RADIATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Minutes**

**June 13, 2018**

**Call to Order – Public Session**

Donna Stevens, Chair, called the Radiation Advisory Committee (RAC) into public session on June 13, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. in Conference Room 221 of the Portland State Office Building.

Members Present:

Bremner, DMD, Fred

Franco, Janet

Smith, Barbara

Absent:

Reese, PhD, Steve

Cyman, DVM, Juliana

Stevens, Donna

Young, Scott

Henrikson, Mandy

OHA Members Present:

Howe, David

Carpenter, Todd

Wendt, Rick

Haskins, Hillary

Lind, Lee

Mynes, Tom

Leon, Daryl

Herring, Brent

Riven Leigh

Guests

Almeida, Albert, OIS

Conlow, Ed OBMI

**Introduction of Members and Guests**

Radiation Advisory Committee members, Radiation Protection Services (RPS) personnel and guests introduced themselves.

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from the Februarys 14, 2018 meeting were sent to the members for their review, prior to this meeting.

**Motion**

Barbara Smith moved, and Dr. Fred Bremner seconded a motion to approve the February 14th Radiation Advisory Committee minutes as written. The motion carried.

**RPS Staffing**

David Howe reported that two Inspectors (EHS3’s) have left RPS. Eric Packard accepted a position with CH2M in their Radiological Services division and Sudhir Oberoi has joined the State of Washington- Department of Emergency Preparedness/Licensing of their State buildings.

David then introduced Brent Herring. Brent joined Radiation Protection Services (RPS) on April 30, as an Environmental Health Specialist 3.  His responsibilities include doing tanning, X-ray and radiative material facility inspections, plus radioanalytical laboratory and Emergency Response team (ERT) member assignments.

Brent’s radiation heath physics experience includes over five years as a Radiologic Technologist in a Level 1 trauma hospital. He most recent position was being an Environmental Health Specialist with the Florida Department of Health doing X-ray facility inspections, acting as the lead in conducting on-going Nuclear Power Plant environmental sampling, and serving as a Senior Field Team Specialist during drills. His earlier experiences include over 10-years of food service establishment, child care, hospitals, pools, hotels and nursing facility regulatory experience in North Carolina and Florida.  Brent has a BS in Biology from University of North Carolina. .

David also shared that on June 29th, a 2nd new hire, Joe Enger, will join Radiation Protection Services (RPS) as an Environmental Health Specialist 1. Joe is coming from his position as a Health Physicist with the Arizona Department of Health Services, Bureau of Radiation Control. For the past year and a half, he has been inspecting X-ray, tanning and laser facilities, and processing/tracking Registrant applications. Joe obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Radiation Health Physics from Oregon State University.

David said that by filling the two open vacancies, RPS will be able to get back on track tackling the backlog of x-ray inspections.

Lastly, David announced that Hillary Haskins was selected to be the Radioactive Material Lead Worker, effective May1, 2018. Hillary has been with RPS for 4 years. She will be collaborating with Glenda Villamar in cross training of new staff.

**ACTION ITEMS**

Variance/Exemptions:

Rick Wendt informed RPS has approved a 3rd hand held dental system, called X-Ray-2-Go.

Laser Registry Update – David Howe

David shared that one of RPS’s proposals to develop a Laser Regulatory Program has not been moved forward as a 2019-2021 Legislative Concept due to other PHD budgetary priorities. Challenges in promoting creation of a program have been not knowing how many lasers there are in the State (the number of potential Registrants) when trying to create a funding strategy and not having any injury information. Any proposed Laser program would need to be accepted/supported by Senior PHD management, the Governor’s office and the Legislature. Even though RPS is not able to move forward at this time, for a future initiative, it does now have a template of rules, with a focus on operator training/education to insure public health and safety.

Proposal to Allow APRN’s to Supervise Fluoroscopy: Update- David Howe/ Ed Conlow (OBMI)

David introduced Ed Conlow (Executive Director, Oregon Board of Medical Imaging- OBMI) and asked him to do an update on an Oregon Nurse Association proposal to allow Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN’s) to do fluoroscopy. The original 2016 premise, proposed by the Oregon States Board of Nursing(OSBN), was to only allow Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA’s) to coordinate with an OBMI licensee (Radiologic Technologist- RT) during interventional pain management procedures that require fluoroscopic imaging. RPS subsequently drafted new OAR language but discovered OBMI needed to create/revise statute to address their existing requirement of only physicians being allowed to supervise RTs.

Ed gave a briefing including that the Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) then proposed a Bill to broaden the original proposal so APRNs would have the authority to perform all forms of diagnostic imaging. Due to medical community resistance, the Oregon House/Senate Healthcare chairmen tabled the proposed Bill sending it to the three agencies for resolution with ONA.

Two interagency meetings then took place (April 6th & June 26th). RPS presented a proposal to use the AAPA/ASRT “Fundamental Framework for PAs doing Fluoroscopy” as the required didactic/clinical/applications training model for APRNs. All agency representatives supported the idea. Ed said he would 1) make the proposal to OBMI at their July 20th meeting and see if they would support a statutory change to allow APRNs to “supervise” RTs for fluoroscopy procedures and 2) also contact ASRT/ARRT to confirm their support in using the Framework and test, respectfully. OSBN and ONA representatives were invited to the July 20th OBMI meeting. David told the group he would present the proposed training to the Radiation Advisory Committee on June 13th for their input.

Donna summarized the discussion. She then asked if the committee wanted to support the training proposal (40 hours didactic, 40 hours clinical, plus machine specific applications training) using/completing the ASRT fundamental framework and passing the ARRT test, as the pathway for APRNs to supervise fluoroscopy.

Motion:

Fred Bremner moved, and Janet Franco seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Proposal to Allow Physician Assistants (PA’s) & Nurse Practitioners (NP’s) to Supervise LXMO’s Doing X-rays – Rick Wendt

Rick summarized a recent discussion with Ed Conlow (OBMI) regarding an OBMI statute that allows PA’s and/or NP’s to supervise Limited X-Ray Machine Operators (LXMO’s) during their clinical portion of formal academic training. [Note: Current RPS OAR’s preclude NP’s from doing same and are, therefore, in conflict with the OBMI statute].

Ed shared that X-ray schools are challenged in setting up clinical sites for these students who possess a temporary license while completing their training. Selective potential clinical sites do not have physicians (or PA’s) to serve as supervisors. Because OBMI permits NP’s to act as supervisors RPS would need to create new OAR’s defining training requirements for NP’s.

Rick made a proposal to RAC suggesting that a 2-day training program including didactic, applications and imaging components would be appropriate. NP’s do not receive any formal x-ray imaging training as a part of nursing school. As such, there is concern that they are not qualified to give feedback to clinical students leaning how to take “good” images. RAC members discussed what level of training would be sufficient or adequate for NP’s to be clinical site supervisors.

Initial Motion

Dr. Fred Bremner moved and No Second.

There was further discussion concerning NP’s needing to be proficient at knowing how to take and recognize a quality x-ray image, so they can provide meaningful instruction. Rick reinforced that there would be a weighted focus in developing skills to recognize good quality images. He will create a proposed training syllabus and present it at the Oct. 10th RAC meeting.

Final Motion

Scott Young moved and Janet seconded. Motion passed with one abstention by Fred Bremner.

Proposal to Allow Speech Pathologists to Supervise Fluoroscopy (Barium Swallows) – Rick Wendt

Rick presented a variance request that came from OHSU radiologists. The request was to allow Speech Pathologists to direct Radiologic Technicians (RT’s) for barium swallow fluoroscopy procedures so radiologists do not have to be present.

Rick shared that current RPS OAR’s and OBMI ORS require Radiologists to be present because Speech Pathologists are not included as supervisors. OBMI Statutes state that radiologists must supervise RT’s.

Four RAC members opposed, so there was no motion taken.

Proposal to Allow Radiologists to Perform Modified Barium Swallows via Skype- Rick Wendt

Rick shared that a heath care facility has proposed to allow their radiologists to perform modified barium swallows, via skype, because it is a simple procedure.

Rick said he had invited a healthcare facility representative to make a presentation at today’s RAC Meeting, but they were unable to attend.

Rick facilitated a discussion of the following issues, including:

* What happens if the skype interconnectivity goes down within the facility?
* Do they have enough bandwidth to support as much video needs?
* What is the capability of the technologists in the room to handle the unforeseen technical situation?
* What happens if the patient aspirates and there is no medical doctor in the room to manage the care of the patient?
* Mandy Hendrickson gave a patient’s perspective and questioned confidentiality issues and security protocols

Based upon the discussion, RAC members felt more information was needed concerning the above issues. Rick will follow up with the facility and report back to RAC.

Proposal by Sensus Health Care to Allow Dermatologists to Operate Sensus Superficial Radiation Therapy (SRT) 100 Device: Update- David Howe

David gave an update about a variance request (which actually is a rule revision proposal) to allow dermatologists to operate the Sensus SRT 100 device. OAR’s prohibit them to be operators. RAC convened a Rule Advisory Sub-Committee which recommended not making a rule revision based upon inadequate manufacturer radiation use and safety training, combined with a lack of formal radiation therapy received by dermatologists in their medical school education.

An RPS denial draft letter has been sent to the Center’s Administrator for presentation to/review by the OHA Director and then send out to the company. Despite the RAC recommendation, the Director has indicated an interest to still initiate rulemaking.

In the event RPS is instructed to convene rulemaking, it will consider using the ASRT Radiation Therapy framework as required didactic, clinical and applications training.

Rulemaking Proposal to Address Repeat Rates with Digital Imaging – Rick Wendt

Rick shared that there are issues associated with digital imaging, specifically, that images can be deleted which eliminate the ability to accurately track repeat rates/dose levels. Rick suggested it is important to have an OAR requiring registrants to have a monitoring system to keep track of digital images taken and the resulting delivered patient dose.

Donna Stevens said she was not sure if RPS should prescribe how digital imaging procedures are done. In her professional opinion, there are issues because imaging technology is rapidly changing. Currently, computed radiography (CR) uses cassettes that have a digital reader (available from multiple vendors) which is integrated with different digital imaging receptors/control panel models (also available from several different vendors). Donna feels this this makes it a challenge to use a prescriptive rule approach. Rick will complete more research and report back to RAC at the Oct. 10th meeting.

**Working Lunch with Program Updates**

**Electronic Products Program** – Rick Wendt

Even though there are new fluoroscopic devices entering the market place there are still no FDA-approved handheld fluorography devices.

Allegations – Rick

RPS responded to an allegation of non-licensed staff taking x-rays. Tom Mynes, RPS Health Physicist, investigated but was not able to substantiate the claim.

Tanning Program – Rick

There is still $55,000 in outstanding tanning facility registration fees. Sharon Ross, Tanning Registrar, has initiated the civil penalty imposition process for the unpaid fees.

FDA News – Rick

The FDA confirmed that dental Computed Tomography (CT) manufacturers should be providing phantoms to user facilities. This is an agreement between the FDA and manufacturers.

Lioness Holdings/Tan Republic – *Complaint for Injunctive Relief* – David Howe

David reported that, since the last RAC meeting, a Complaint for Injunctive Relief has been filed/signed by the Multnomah Circuit Court. It orders that all Lioness Holding/Tan Republic facilities cease operation until all outstanding registration and civil penalties have been paid. Note: It appears several of the facilities are no longer operating.

**Radioactive Materials Licensing (RML)**

Application for OHSU Cyclotron/Nuclear Pharmacy *–* Hillary Haskins, RPS Lead Worker

Hillary reported OHSU has hired a nuclear pharmacist and that RPS licensing staff are reviewing the submitted licensing materials. There is no timeline for completing the license application process since there are extensive policy and procedures to be reviewed by RPS staff members Erin Desemple and Daryl Leon.

**Staff Exercise/Training Updates** – Rick Wendt

Rick shared that RPS staff participated in annual Columbia Generating Station(CGS) training drills. The dress rehearsal was Feb. 27th and the Evaluated Drill on March 27th. (see later report)

Two RPS members are slated to participate as RSO/advisory staff for an Oregon National Guard, Civil Support Team (CST) dress rehearsal on July 10th and final Evaluated Exercise on August 7th, 2018.

A matrix showing RPS inspection training progress and qualification levels for specific facility inspection types was presented/reviewed.

Tom Mynes, RPS Health Physicist, will be attending upcoming Incident Command Structure (ICS) 300 and 400 courses.

Rick also shared he had joined an Oregon Public Health Lab representative to participate in a Northwest Regional Radiation Workshop which focused on inter-state lab sampling/analysis capacities.

Pathfinder Exercise June 17-21, 2018

This year, RPS was approached to participate in a joint agency Cascadia mass casualty exercise coordinated by the Public Health Division’s Health Security, Preparedness and Response (HSPR) program. Known as the Pathfinder Exercise, RPS will be adding a Radiological component to the Coastal scenario. Todd Carpenter reported that three staff (Hillary Haskins, Brenton Herring, and Sharon Ross) will join him to present training and scenarios. The drill will involve several 173rd SERV-OR volunteers, military and Oregon Disaster Medical Team members. RPS’s role would be to help with radiological safety, screening and awareness.

There are two proposed (2) scenarios including 1) Training volunteers to implement a “Community Collection Center” which are used to screen large numbers of people for radiation contamination and 2) Conducting a “turn back” exercise for first-responder teams entering a radiation contaminated, raised building.

**Proposed Rulemaking Update**

NRC Rule Compatibility Package – Todd Carpenter

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Todd briefed RAC members about a STATEMENT OF NEED AND FISCAL IMPACT**/**Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for an upcoming submission concerning Federal Compatibility, dosimetry, and Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Training. When RPS sends proposed RPS rules to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) they are evaluated and returned with comments.

Revising RPS rules to be compatible can be complex because of significant differentiations between NRC, an Agreement State, and Oregon language. For example, one of the issues RPS staff is dealing with is how NRC and Oregon Regulatory Commission agreement states use general licensing for general devices. Vendors who manufacture general devices containing radioactive materials must provide the states and NRC with a quarterly report concerning where these devices were distributed. Daryl Leon, RPS Health Physicist, receives/reviews these vendor reports for who made purchases of devices. RPS then makes make contact with the new device owner. Oregon rules require the business that purchased the device to notify agency within 30 days. There is a disconnect because RPS only learns about new purchases through the quarterly vendor report which means new facilities are not usually aware of the requirement to notify RPS within 30 days. (see handout)

Industrial X-Ray Rules – Tom Mynes, RPS Health Physicist

Tom reported that with Sudhir Oberoi’s departure he has been assigned to complete a revision of RPS industrial x-ray OAR’s. The goal is to make the rules more user-friendly and meet compliance requirements. Tom will be convening a rule advisory committee. There is no target date for completion.

RPS Web Database - Rick Wendt/Riven Leigh- OIS

Riven gave an update on the electronic field reporting project involving creation of a new web-based database for facility inspection reporting and registration /licensing of radioactive sources. Glenda Villamar has already done an inspection using the system successfully.

**Emergency Preparedness/Response**

CGS Exercise –After Action Report/March 27th, 2018 Full Drill (CST/CAP as partners)

Rick reported that RPS deployed two field teams for a FEMA-evaluated Drill and that all activity performance criteria were found to be satisfactory. They were evaluated on performing two types of communications modes, and pulling two samples of air, grass, water, soil and vegetation samples. RPS field sampling checklists/instructions (developed by Hillary Haskins) were used for logging samples. Evaluators were impressed by the effectiveness of these forms and requested copies as a reference for other state teams. For the first time, two other agencies joined RPS as partners. The Army National Guard’s Civil Support Team (CST) sent their communication vehicle/equipment which enhanced coordination efforts between RPS field staff and the command center/ODOE Agency Operation \Center (AOC). The Civil Air Patrol (CAP) provided an airplane to test the viability of transporting field samples from Hermiston to Corvallis for analysis, versus using law enforcement ground vehicles. It was determined that, for a real scenario, a larger aircraft (with substantially more payload) would be required.

**Radioactive Materials Licensing Discussion/Updates**

Open Incidents – Rick Wendt

Rick reported that, to date, there have been 18 incidents in 2018. Currently, there are only 2 open incidents; RPS is waiting for final facility documentation in order to close these two open 2018 incidents. In 2017, there were 78 total incidents.

Emerging Tech – Use of Lutetium (Lu 171) for therapy – Daryl Leon

Daryl Leon, RPS Health Physicist, gave a brief presentation about Lu 171 which is a new therapy for neuroendocrine tumors. He covered its’ pharmacology, what it is used for, and how it works. He also covered the advantages and disadvantages of therapy and how LU-171 is produced. (see hand out)

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 02:10 p.m.

The next meeting for the Radiation Advisory Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, October 10, 2018 at 10:00 am in Room 1C.

Respectfully,

Lee Lind