

# **Radiation Advisory Committee Meeting**

February 11, 2026

Hybrid Meeting

Meeting Start Time: 10:00 am

## **Attending:**

### **Radiation Advisory Committee (RAC) Members**

Robert Berry – Nuclear Medicine Lead & Radiation Safety Officer at Providence Portland Medical Center and East Portland

Alicia Zambelli – Veterinarian & Co-owner of Fern Hill Veterinary Care in Happy Valley

Dennis Wood – Medical Physicist at Bay Area Hospital, Coos Bay

David Hamby – OSU Emeritus in Health Physics & Nuclear Engineering  
Garrett Frey – Safety Facilitator, On-Line Co.

Jennifer Clayton – Dean of Nursing & Allied Health at Walla Walla Community College

Saulo Sousa Melo – Oral Maxillofacial Radiologist at OHSU School of Dentistry

Absent: Mechelle Livran – Palm Beach Tanning

### **Radiation Protection Services (RPS)**

David Howe – Program Director

Todd Carpenter – Licensing and Emergency Preparedness Manager

Brent Herring – Lead X-ray Inspector, Health Physicist

Hillary Haskins – Operations Manager

Erin DeSempole – Radioactive License Reviewer

Patty Thompson – Section Administrative Specialist and Staff Support

Tom Mynes – Inspector, Health Physicist

Lee Lind – Radioactive Materials Licensing Administrative Specialist

Alex Parker – Tanning Program Administrative Specialist

Toby Irving – Inspector, Health Physicist

Michelle Martin – Inspector, Health Physicist

Tom Pfahler – Inspector, Health Physicist

Sarah Brodesser – Inspector, Health Physicist

Rich Patterson – Inspector, Health Physicist

### **Guests**

Thomas King – Oregon Board of Medical Imaging

Linda Kihs – Oregon Dental Assistants Association

Catherine Hess – Oregon Health & Sciences University, Radiation Safety Officer

Hunter Tillery – Medical Physicist, Northwest Medical Physics Center

Dr. Kathryn Higley – Oregon State University Professor

Rex Ayers – Medical Physicist, Northwest Medical Physics Center

Dr. Eric Alskarhida – Disaster Preparedness Consult

Andrea Danse - Dental Organization practicing in Oregon

## Approval of the October 15, 2025 Meeting Minutes

- Motioned by Garrett Frey, Seconded by David Hamby.
- Minutes approved by Bob Berry, Saulo Sousa Melo, Dennis Wood, David Hamby, Alicia Zambelli, Garrett Frey, and Jennifer Clayton.

## RAC Member Terms Presenter: David Howe

- Dennis Wood – Second Term 2026-2029.
- Jennifer Clayton – 2026-2029 First Term.
- Replacement for Saulo Sousa Melo, 2025-2028 term needed.

## Staffing Transition Presenter: David Howe

- David Howe, Program Manager, is retiring April 1, 2026.
- Todd Carpenter will be the Interim Program Manager starting March 1, 2026.
- Erin DeSempole will be the Interim Licensing Manager starting March 1, 2026.
- Radioactive Material Licensing
  - Primary Review and Technical Review assignments are pending.

## 2025 Program Updates

### 2025 RPS Budget – Presenter: Todd Carpenter

- Fiscal summary ending December 31, 2025.

	Beginning Balance	Revenue	Expenditure	Balance
Grain Analysis Lab Fee	\$5,463	\$8,316	\$8,278	\$5,501
X-Ray	\$22,610	\$89,353	\$1,074,550	\$962,587
RAD Material Licensing	\$207,243	\$846,517	\$588,693	\$50,581
Tanning	\$5,300	\$27,247	\$178,475	\$156,528
ODOE Public Safety Training	\$37,075	\$0	\$4,158	\$32,918
ODOE CGS Response Training	\$35			\$48,515
METRO Training	\$45,902		\$3,290	\$49,193
<u>Mammography</u>	<u>\$17,607</u>	<u>\$150,342</u>	<u>\$116,036</u>	<u>\$16,699</u>
Total Funds	\$210,939	\$971,433	\$1,905,924	\$1,111,124

- This is routine and normal to have a carryover.
- The X-ray registration process has started for this biennium. This is what causes the carry-over balance.
  - Projected revenue \$2,588,987.
- The tanning registration process has begun as well.
- The radioactive materials program does quarterly licensing fees.

## Projected March 2026 Registration Fees

Balance	\$1,111,124	Revenue	Projected Balance
X-Ray Registration Revenue		\$2,588,987	\$1,609,474
Tanning Projected Revenue		\$131,611	

- 2025 through 2031 Funding.
  - A Preliminary Legislative Concept Draft has been developed to include proposed:
    - Increased Tanning, X-Ray and Radioactive Material Licensing fee.
    - A new licensing amendment fee for Radioactive Material Licensing.
    - New Radioactive Material Licensing and X-ray Therapy application fees.
    - Increased radioactive material licensing and tanning fee caps.
  - These adjustments will reverse a growing deficit and put RPS in a positive balance by 2031.

## Electronic/Tanning Products Update

### **X-ray Inspections** – Presenter: Brent Herring

#### X-ray (Electronic) Inspections 2025 Year in Review

Year	Facilities Inspected	Machines Inspected	Tubes Inspected	Number of Violations
2025	855	3,161	3,236	184
2024	832	3,341	3,401	160
2023	987	3,536	3,547	255
2022	556	2,074	2,117	213

2025 Inspection Time: 1,317 hours.

2025 Travel Time: 966 hours.

- Inspection numbers have dipped in the past 2 years due to losing an inspector.

- The most common violations are X-ray machines not registered, operators not properly trained, hand-held X-ray machine operator training, dosimetry records not maintained, Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) duties (no RSO designated) for facility, annual refresher training for operators, and patients not visible to operator during exposure.
- RPS Mission Statement – Dose Reduction
  - Implemented to inspection database late 2025.
    - Designed to document the dose reduction instances during the inspection that previously was not recorded in data entry.
    - Focuses on patients, facility personnel, and public.
  - Examples
    - A dental facility’s intra-oral settings was for film exposures, while a digital system was being used.
      - Changing to the correct setting reduced the patient dose from 254mR to 73 mR.
    - A dental intra-oral time was set too high at 0.16 seconds, producing a patient dose at 232 mR (less than 170 mR is recommended).
      - Changing the time to 0.1 seconds reduced the patient’s dose to 145 mR.

**Tanning Inspections** – Presenter: Brent Herring

Tanning Inspections 2025 Year in Review

Year	Inspections
2025	52
2024	32
2023	92
2022	99

- Violation Summary
  - Timer and emergency stops were not checked annually. A trained operator was not present.

**IT Enhancements – Inspections, Registration/Licensing and Incidents** – Presenter: Tom Mynes

- Major Milestones
  - First time, all three RPS inspection programs are fully on-line.
  - Standardized digital reporting.
- Ongoing operational responsibility
  - This shift creates a sustained “database stewardship” function for RPS:
    - Form updates.
    - Rule driven updates.
    - Quality assurance/quality control checks.
    - Data integrity audit.
    - Data management.
- Team enabled success
  - This is the payoff of over ten years of effort.

## **Radioactive Material Licensing and Operations Update**

**Radioactive Materials Licensing Summary for 2025** – Presenter: Erin DeSemple

Count	Type
4	Administrative
44	Renewal
59	Change AU/RSO
19	Termination
53	Reciprocity
24	Add/remove source
25	Change RAM location/corporate change/other
1	Decommissioning
4	New
<b>233</b>	<b>Total</b>

  

Count	Type
41	Cancellations/ combined amendments

These were included to show how with the new database, we are entering amendment as they are received. Sometimes the amendments will overlap, so we started combining them.

## **Radioactive Material Inspections and Violations for 2025** – Presenter: Hillary Haskins

- 48 inspections.
- 10 facilities with violations.
  - Most common violations include: missing calibration records, failure to annually review radiation program, failure to meet licensing condition, failure to provide individuals working in or frequenting any portion of a restricted area refresher training, failure to disable the vehicle or trainer when not under direct control, failure to provide a written report to the authority within 30 days of any incident involving industrial radiographic equipment, failure to use a minimum of two independent physical controls that form two separate tangible barriers.

## **Emergency Response/Incidents**

### **Incidents/Response for 2025** – Presenter Tom Pfahler

<b>Count</b>	<b>Description</b>
11	Allegations – non-licensed operators, holding patients, concerned citizens, etc.
9	Scrap Monitor Alarm
9	Waste Monitor Alarm
3	Medical Event
3	Exposure
2	Contaminated Waste
2	Accelerator Medical Event
2	Found Device / Material
9	Other
<b>50</b>	<b>Total</b>

- Scrap Metal Alarm and Waste Monitor Alarm require a Department of Transportation permit to be issued to return the radioactive material to the original site.
  - Most of the Waste Monitor Alarms were for Iodine-131 and Lutetium-177.

### **Staff Training and Conferences for 2025** – Presenter: Hillary Haskins

- Training
  - Observed Washington Department of Health Community Reception Center FEMA dress rehearsal and drill.
  - RPS hosted Tri-county Community Reception Center Exercise.
  - Various First Responder/Receiver trainings provided.

- Metro Radiation Worker Training.
- Conferences attended in-person
  - Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors in Tucson, Arizona.
  - Mammography Quality Standards Act (MQSA) training in Tucson, Arizona.
  - Organization of Agreement States in Washington, DC.
- Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Courses
  - Advanced Radiological Incident Operations.
  - Industrial Radiography Safety.

**Community Reception Center Drill and Toolkit Creation** – Presenter: Todd Carpenter

- The toolkit is now available on our website.
- The purpose of the toolkit is for it to be used during a radiological event where the public is concerned about being exposed and health effects. The local public health community would provide a program to screen, document and follow up on individuals.
- Hospitals, public health, and first responders can follow the toolkit information for guidance and a checklist to be able to set up a Community Reception Center.

**2026 Staffing Transition** – Presenter: Todd Carpenter

- David Howe, Section Manager, is retiring at the end of March 2026.
- Todd Carpenter is the Interim Section Manager with David Howe being his Mentor for the month of March.
- Erin DeSemple is the Interim Licensing Manager with Todd Carpenter being her Mentor.
- The vacant Environmental Health Specialist 3 position from Erin DeSemple moving to Manager will be filled by recruitment.

- **2026 Priorities** – Presenter: Todd Carpenter

- Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP) completed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).
  - The IMPEP is completed every five years for programs that are in good standing.
  - NRC will send a team of approximately five individuals to evaluate and monitor the following:
    - Technical staff and training.
    - Inspection program.
    - Licensing actions.
    - Incidents and allegations.
    - Legislation and regulations.

- During June/July the NRC inspectors will accompany RPS inspection staff during inspections to evaluate them.
- The week of August 17<sup>th</sup> is the evaluation.
- Approximately two months after the evaluation, the NRC will provide a written and verbal report with recommendations.

## **Exemptions/Rules/Statutes**

### **Web Based Database Development** – Presenter: Tom Mynes

- There are four main components of the web-based databases: Inspection, Fiscal, Reports and Protocols.
  - For the X-ray Program, all of the components have been completed.
  - For the Radioactive Material Licensing Program, the inspection and fiscal portions are complete. The reports and Protocols are still in progress.
  - For the Tanning Program, the inspection portion is complete. The fiscal, reports and protocols are still in progress.
  - Incidents are complete.

### **Rule Advisory Committee** – Presenter: Todd Carpenter

- RPS is looking to identify Rule Advisory Committee members for two sets of rules:
  1. Imaging and Diagnostic, Veterinary Fluoroscope and Computer Tomography
  2. New X-ray Therapy rules
- Letters of invitation have been sent out for the first set of rules
- March is the tentative meeting start date for the first set of rules
- Once the first set of rules have gone through the Rule Advisory Committee, the invitations will be sent out for the second set of rules.

### **Update on Additional Option for Vet CT Operator Training** – Presenter: Brent Herring

- About 10 years ago a small number of CT machines began being registered for vet facilities.
- 2 years ago, the number of machines registered increased greatly.
- The only training course approved and available was a medical CT course from Medical Imaging Consultants (MIC).
- Radiation Safety & Certificates on Demand reached out to RPS to have their CT training course reviewed.
  - The course was approved by RPS.

### **Legislative Bills** – Presenter: Todd Carpenter

- 2026 is a Short Session. It runs from February to March.
- There are a dozen bills being monitored, including:
  - House Bill 4073
    - Rule Advisory Committee regulations.
  - House Bill 4177
    - Regulations of Public Meetings.

### **Executive Order 14300 Update** – Presenter: Hillary Haskins

- Rule changes will be published to the Federal Register Notice beginning March 2026. There will be a strict 30-day comment period.
- Organization of Agreement States Compatibility Committee review with Agreement States:
  - Part 37, Materials Safety and Security
  - Part 31, General Licensing
  - Part 35, Medical use of Materials
- The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) had a Government-to-Government meeting today to discuss 10 CFR 20 changes, which covers ALARA (as low as reasonably achievable) regarding radiation exposure.
- The Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD) sent a Letter of Concern to NRC Chairman Neih.

### **Emergency Preparedness/Response**

- **Incident – Sale of Yellowcake on Facebook Marketplace** – Presenter: Todd Carpenter
  - RPS received notification from NRC regarding the selling and distributing yellowcake on the internet.
  - Yellowcake is a byproduct of materials being leached from uranium ore that is put into a yellow powder that is then concentrated and made into fuels.
  - It is an alpha emitter, if it is held, it could be a public health safety event.
  - The seller was contacted, once they learned that they were speaking to a regulatory agent, the conversation stopped and the investigator was blocked.
  - The individual and selling party names were forwarded to RPS federal enforcement partners.
    - Federal enforcement partners will conduct their own investigation.
- **Incident – Update on lack of hospital dosimetry program** – Presenter: Brent Herring
  - During an inspection, most if not all dosimetry badge wearers showed non-detectable reading for multiple years. It was determined that the surgery

physicians were wearing the badges incorrectly, only wearing one badge and it was under lead. Some staff were not wearing badges at all. No control badges were turned in. There was a note on the dosimetry reports stating the badge company was using their background as the control badge dose reading.

- RPS response
  - Hospital had to submit all policies related to dosimetry.
  - The hospital will need to conduct an audit on dosimetry badges, storage, wearers, and perform education on proper way to wear dosimetry badges.
  - Hospital will need to review each department to ensure:
    - Proper control badge storage and return.
    - Personnel wear dosimetry badges.
    - Personnel wear dosimetry badges correctly.
  - The hospital will submit the next three months of dosimetry reports. If any readings are questionable, then a dose reconstruction will need to be completed for the wearer.
  - Badge wearers who wore badges incorrectly will be notified their dose readings are incorrect.
- Facility Response
  - Submitted all policies related to dosimetry.
  - Submitted last three months of dosimetry reports.
  - Control badges stored correctly and returned.
  - Badge wearers are appropriately wearing badges.
    - Since inspection the hospital has educated staff on importance of radiation safety and wearing a badge appropriately. This was discussed in staff meetings and followed up with an emailed memo.

▪ **Incident – Unauthorized person in therapy vault during treatment – Brent Herring**

- A family member, who was interpreting for the patient, accompanied them to the linear accelerator (LINAC) radiation treatment and into the LINAC vault.
- The family member left the vault to use the restroom.
- At some point, the family member re-entered the vault without the Radiation Therapist noticing due to preparing the patient for the therapy and had their back to the entrance of the room.
  - The Radiation Therapist left the room and did not notice the family member in the vault due to low lighting in the room, dark furniture, dark walls, dark floors, the person was sitting in a dark chair wearing

dark clothing. The cameras in the room did not cover where the family member was sitting.

- After one cycle was applied the Radiation Therapist reentered the room and discovered the family member, no further radiation was applied.
  - During the investigation recreation, it was noticed that the lights are turned down to help decrease the patient's anxiety levels during treatment. The family member reentered the room when the lights were dimmed and sat off to the side in a dark chair, wearing dark clothing, dark floors and dark background. The individual blended in with the background. The cameras at the control panel only focused on the bed.
  - There was a dose reconstruction performed:
    - The family member was between seven and twelve feet away from the beam.
    - Received between five to six millirem in less than five minutes.
- Violation
  - Member of public in restricted area.
    - RPS dose not have a rule for public dose in a restricted area
      - 333-120-0180 for public dose in unrestrictive area is 2 millirem in an hour.
        - The dose the family member received was over the unrestrictive area dose rate even though it occurred in a restricted area.
- Corrective Actions
  - Securing the entry door so no one can enter or exit without permission.
  - Visitor mitigation and escort protocols are now in place.
  - A treatment vault lighting standard so that the lights are not dimmed below a certain point.
  - "All Clear" room check protocol where both therapists will go through the room and make sure it is all clear before the vault door is closed.
- **Incident – Unlicensed Computed Tomography (CT) Operator – Brent Herring**
  - Joint investigation with the Oregon Board of Medical Imaging (OBMI), where OBMI lead.
  - There were multiple allegations on a specific individual.
    - Some allegations could be confirmed and others could not.
  - CT technician admitted to allowing an unlicensed person expose a patient for CT scouts and exam while the CT tech restrained the patient.
  - RPS agreed with the follow up and corrective actions sent to OBMI.

- OBMI issued the CT technician civil disciplinary actions for unprofessional conduct and a fine.

**New Business** – Presenter: Todd Carpenter

- There are 2026 mandatory training courses for Radiation Advisory Committee members.

**Public Comments**

- Thomas King thanked David Howe for all of his years of service. He wishes David well in his retirement.
- Bob Berry thanked David Howe for all of his years of service. This is David's last RAC meeting. Bob wishes David well in his retirement.

**Announcements** – Presenter: Bob Berry

- Next RAC meeting is scheduled for June 10, 2026.
- Meeting adjourned at 12:21 pm.