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Minutes
Radiation Advisory Board Meeting
May 14, 2008

Perimeter Center, Conference Center, Board Room 3
9960 Mayland Drive
Richmond, VA

Members Present: Lee S. Anthony, Sr., Ph.D., Panos P. Fatouros, Ph.D., Drexel Nelson Harris , Joyce O. Hawkins, Edway R. Johnson, and Mary Ann Turner, M.D.

Members Absent: Andrew C. Boone, Jr., Ted Sherwin, D.D.S., James R. Thornton and Rand S. Wachsstock, D.M.V.

Ex Officio Members Present: Karen Remley, M.D., M.B.A., FAAP, State Health Commissioner; C. Ray Davenport, Department of Labor and Industry; Donald Butts, DVM, representing Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and Bob Wickline, representing Department of Environmental Quality

Staff Present: Carl Armstrong, M.D., Director, Office of Epidemiology; Leslie P. Foldesi, Director, Division of Radiological Health Program; Mike Welling and James deKrafft, Division of Radiological Health Program; John Beers, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services,

Guests Present: Carl Tarantino, Dominion Nuclear staff

Call to Order

Dr. Remley called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. All attendees present were acknowledged with a brief introduction.

Dr. Remley asked if there were any additional items to be included on the agenda as presented; none was added, and the agenda was approved. The meeting moved to the motion for approval of the minutes for the May 9, 2007 and August 16, 2007 meetings. The minutes were approved as presented, with noted correct spelling for guest, Carl Tarantino.

2008 General Assembly Legislation- Carl Armstrong, M.D.

HR1420 and SB514 were agency-sponsored legislation that addressed the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) concerns regarding Virginia's statutory authority to implement the radioactive materials program under the NRC Agreement State Program.

VDH followed other legislation that did not involve VDH directly, but was related to radiological issues, such as SB525. This bill sponsored by Senator Wagner would have created a commission to study the impact of mining uranium in Pittsylvania County. The bill died in the Senate Rules Committee. VDH anticipates further consideration of this issue in the next legislative session.

SJ133 sponsored by Senator McEachin called for a study of low-level radioactive waste disposal as a result of the Barnwell, SC facility closing its doors to Virginia in July 2008. This bill also died in the Senate Rules committee. Nevertheless Senator McEachin requested the Governor to have VDH conduct the study. Dr. Armstrong will present more information regarding the study later in the meeting.

Break for tour of the mobile radiation laboratory

Low-level radioactive waste disposal- Carl Armstrong, M.D.

VDH offered to conduct a study for Senator McEachin consistent with available resources. The Radiation Advisory Board will be provided an opportunity to review and comment on the report before it is presented to Senator McEachin. Dr. Armstrong presented an outline for the study , which included contact the Barnwell facility to determine who Virginia's waste generators are and how much was being disposed at Barnwell. The Southeast Compact Commission was also identified as a potential source of information. It was noted that the U.S. General Accounting Office had conducted a similar study a few years ago.

There was discussion among the members. Drexel Harris stated that Dominion Power has been aware of the Barnwell closure and is addressing their disposal needs. Panos Fatouros encouraged VDH to take the lead on this issue and contact the licensees with a priority on the major medical and research centers, which have limited storage capacity.

Ed Johnson suggested gaining access to Department of Energy disposal sites for states should be considered. He also asked if Virginia would be willing to host a low-level waste site. Mr. Johnson also mentioned that rather than land burial of low-level waste, engineered above ground storage has been used successfully in Spain. Lee Anthony was also concerned that there are certain sources of radiation, such as Cobalt-57 flood sources, that even though decay to background, still must be disposed as radioactive waste.

Status of NRC Agreement State application- Mike Welling

- 12VAC5-481 revision (Virginia Radiation Protection Regulations)
- 12VAC-5-481 Increased Controls (Fast track rule making process)
- Code of Virginia 32.1-225 et seq. (Radiation Control Act)
- 12VAC5-490 (fee schedule)

VDH has addressed NRC's comments regarding statutory authority and regulations. The revisions to the Radiation Protection Regulations will be effective June 12, 2008. the rest of the application has been complete and includes VDH's procedures, guidance documents, and forms. VDH staff anticipate submittal of the application in mid-June. NRC has indicated that they will devote additional staff to review the application and look towards an agreement in March 2009, which is the end of their billing cycle for the licensees. Dr. Fatouros requested a copy of the application and Drexel Harris requested a copy of the presentation.

Working Lunch

Activities regarding the Radiological Health Program- Les Foldesi

An overview of the following program activities were provided:

- Radon
- Emergency Preparedness
- Environmental Monitoring
- X-ray

Old Business

There were no old business brought before the meeting.

Opportunity for Public comments

There were no comments from the public in attendance.

New Business

There were no new business brought before the meeting.

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Next meeting

Dr Remley offered Wednesday, November 12, 2008 as a tentative date for the next meeting.

Adjournment at 1:00 pm