

# **Radiation Advisory Board - Meeting Minutes**

## **July 28, 2022**

**Perimeter Center, Conference Center  
Training Room 2  
9960 Mayland Drive  
Henrico, VA 23233**

**Members Present:** Dr. M. Rehan Khan; Drexel Harris; Eric Fidler; James Nunn

**Members Absent:** Allen Goode; Les Foldesi; Laura Strawn; Roy Heltzel; Stanley Benedict

**Ex Officio Members Present:** Dr. Colin Greene, Chairperson and State Health Commissioner, representing the Virginia Department of Health; Harold Pyon Deputy Commissioner, representing the Department of Labor and Industry; Leslie Romanchik representing the Department of Environmental Quality; Dr.Carolynn Bissett representing the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; Ron Graham, Director of Occupational Health Compliance, representing the Department of Labor and Industry

**Ex Officio Members Absent:** N/A

**Staff Present:** Robert Hicks, Deputy Commissioner for Public Health and Preparedness; Lea Perlas, Director; Cameron Rose; Cynthia Thomas; Matthew Ettinger; Asfaw Fenta; Ryan Paris; Sheila Nelson; Kristian Verderame representing the Office of Radiological Health

**Staff Absent:** Shameera Carr, Executive Advisor for Public Health and Preparedness

**Public Present:** N/A

### **Call to Order:**

Mrs. Perlas, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. A quorum was declared given that four members and four ex officio members were present.

### **Agenda:**

Mrs. Perlas presented a draft agenda and asked if there were any revisions. Being none, a motion to approve was made by Dr. Carolynn Bissett and seconded by James Nunn. The motion passed and the agenda was approved.

### **Minutes:**

Mrs. Perlas presented the draft minutes from May 16, 2019 and asked if there were any additional items to be added. Being none, a motion to approve was made by James Nunn and seconded by Dr. Carolynn Bissett. The motion passed and the minutes were approved.

### **Introduction of Members and Staff:**

Attendees introduced themselves.

## **Activities:**

### **New Business / Office Updates:**

#### ➤ **2022 General Assembly Update**

- No agency sponsored bills from ORH in 2022 GA Session.
- ORH was assigned one bill to track during the 2022 GA session.
- ORH will be submitting a legislative proposal to VDH leadership to update the compliance standards in Code of Virginia § 32.1-229.01 for radon testing and mitigation.

#### ➤ **Regulatory Updates**

- 12VAC5-481 Radiation Protection Regulations- Currently under periodic review process. There is a plan to repeal and replace chapter 481. ORH has convened an internal workgroup tasked with amending content of chapter 481. The layout of the new chapter will adhere to the Virginia Register of Regulations' Style Manual.
- 12VAC5-481 was updated January 14, 2022 to ensure compatibility with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regulations, Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations. These changes are necessary to meet the compatibility requirement of the regulations as an Agreement State program.
- 12VAC5-490 Radiation Protection Regulations: Fee Schedule – Currently under periodic review process. There is a plan to amend Chapter 490. ORH is looking to increase x-ray registration and inspection fees, as fees have not increased since 2019. ORH is also considering several changes to the fee structure in Radioactive Materials.

#### ➤ **New ORH Database and Digital Storage**

- ORH is currently working with VDH's Office of Information Management to develop a new database. The office's current database is outdated and having technical issues.

#### ➤ **Radioactive Materials Program Update**

- The RMP was evaluated by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP) on September 21-25 2020 and was determined satisfactory. The next periodic evaluation will take place in 2025.

#### ➤ **Environmental Monitoring and Emergency Preparedness Program Update**

- Virginia Operations Plan Exercise (VOPEX) 2022  
The 2020 North Anna Ingestion Pathway was cancelled due to COVID-19 exposure concerns and rescheduled for May 2021 as a hybrid/virtual exercise.  
Surry Plume Phase VOPEX was held October 2021.

North Anna Plume Phase VOPEX was held July 2022.  
Surry Plume Phase VOPEX is scheduled for July 2023.

➤ **Radon Program Updates**

- Ryan Paris is working on producing a new Radon Risk Map as the current one presented by EPA is outdated.
- Most tests are conducted by homeowners testing their own homes.
- An effort is made to clean this data to exclude duplicates, post-mitigation tests, and tests that did not follow proper testing protocols.
- Every 6 months, ORH collects Virginia radon test data from 5 major vendors of short term activated charcoal test kits.

➤ **X-ray Program Updates**

- State Inspectors conduct approximately 75% of non-medical and 25% of medical inspections.
- MQSA Contract has been renewed for 2022 and 191 facility inspections are conducted each year.

➤ **VCU Performance Management Group Study**

- VCU did a study on the Office of Radiological Health and determined that ORH should consider increasing or restructuring inspector and administrative personal to match the growing demands placed on staff members.

➤ **ORH Staffing Overview**

- ORH Currently has 25 employees and one vacancy.

**Public Comments:**

N/A

**Next Meeting:** Required annually; schedule at will of Board. The next meeting is required by November 2023.

**Adjournment:** Mrs. Perlas declared the meeting adjourned at 12:16pm.