

Radiation Advisory Board - [DRAFT]

Meeting Minutes

Date: October 7, 2026

Location: OCME Central Laboratory
8850 Times Dispatch Boulevard
Mechanicsville, VA 23116

Attendance

Appointed Board Members Present

Gregory Daniel, Roy Heltzel, James P. Nunn, Les Foldesi, M. Rehan Khan, Felix J. Seo, Allen Goode, Jeffrey Siebers

Appointed Board Members Absent

Chris Kondorossy, William Anderson

Ex Officio Board Members Present

Ron Graham, Eric Fidler, Carolyn Bissett, Ashby Scott

Ex Officio Board Members Absent

Andy John

Virginia Department of Health Staff Present

Matthew Ettinger, Sheila Nelson, Christopher Ryker, Kelsey Held, Michael Lee, Cynthia Farruggio from The Office of Radiological Health.

Members of the Public Present

Thelma Papini, Michael Welling, David Schlesinger (participating electronically)

Call to Order

Matthew Ettinger called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. A quorum was declared, with 12 members present.

Approval of the Agenda

Matthew Ettinger presented the draft agenda for the October 7, 2026, meeting and invited comments or proposed revisions. No revisions were offered. Jeffrey Siebers made a motion to approve the agenda and James P. Nunn seconded the motion. The motion passed and the agenda was approved.

Adoption of Virtual Meeting Policy

Matthew Ettinger proposed adoption of a virtual meeting policy for the Radiation Advisory Board to align with the requirements of § 2.2-3708.3 of the Code of Virginia. He invited Board members to raise any objections or concerns. No objections were raised. Gregory Daniel made a motion to approve the policy and Les Foldesi seconded the motion. The motion passed and the virtual meeting policy was formally adopted.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Matthew Ettinger presented the draft minutes from the May 8, 2025, Radiation Advisory Board meeting and invited comments or proposed revisions. No additional items or revisions were offered. Felix J. Seo made a motion to approve the minutes and Allen Goode seconded the motion. The motion passed and the minutes were approved.

Introductions

Meeting attendees introduced themselves.

New Business

Office of Radiological Health Overview

Matthew Ettinger presented the Office of Radiological Health's (ORH) organizational chart, highlighting the office structure and current vacancies.

Ettinger provided an update on the Mobile Incident Command Laboratory (MICL), which is undergoing refurbishment. Completion is anticipated within approximately one year. Jeffrey Siebers asked about plans for sampling while the MICL is unavailable. Ettinger discussed alternatives in the area and Les Foldesi identified additional options for consideration.

Ettinger discussed ORH's ongoing need for additional funding. He stated that the office's proposed fee increase, submitted in 2022, is still pending without any movement. Additionally, ORH has requested general fund support to help address the gap between the office's operating costs and generated revenue.

Gregory Daniel asked whether the proposed fee increase could be amended given the amount of time that has elapsed since its initial submission. Ettinger confirmed that we can consider the amount of fee increases at later date.

Foldesi asked whether the budget request could specifically address radon program funding. Ettinger expressed hope that additional funding would support ORH operations more broadly. The discussion also addressed the lack of correspondence from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and ongoing grant funding challenges.

Emergency Preparedness and Environmental Monitoring Division

Christopher Ryker, Division Director, reported that ORH's annual radiological emergency exercise with Dominion was successfully evaluated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Ryker stated that the following year's exercise would focus on the 50-mile ingestion phase and that the division was preparing for upcoming training opportunities.

Matthew Ettinger noted that Dominion had recently decreased the amount of training opportunities offered for radiological exercises.

X-Ray Division

Kelsey Held, Division Director, provided an overview of the X-Ray Division's activities and current workload. She reported that the program continues to review and update regulations while managing routine operational responsibilities. Staffing shortages have contributed to a substantial workload, but the team continues to advance its work.

Held encouraged Board members to provide feedback on regulations that may require revision.

Held explained that certain regulations apply to both the X-Ray and Radioactive Materials divisions. She is working collaboratively with Sheila Nelson, Radioactive Materials Division Director, to review and update these regulations.

Held also discussed potential revisions to the private inspector regulations, including the possibility of establishing different qualification tiers for inspectors.

Allen Goode asked whether the Board could review proposed regulations before they are submitted for further consideration. Matthew Ettinger asked what review process the Board would prefer. One option discussed was distributing draft regulations to the Radiation Advisory Board for feedback before submitting them to the Board of Health.

Jeffrey Siebers and James P. Nunn discussed opportunities for regulatory improvement based on their experiences in the field. Nunn asked whether regulations addressing human and veterinary therapy would be revised. Held stated that the office did not have any regulatory changes for them but encouraged the board to provide feedback and comments on this for consideration.

Nunn expressed support and importance for regulatory updates highlighted the complexity of veterinary regulatory requirements and their relationship to the practice of medicine.

Held also discussed the non-medical applications of X-ray technology. ORH is evaluating how to address complex machines like body scanners and bomb detection devices within its regulatory framework rather than relying solely on existing categories that may not adequately reflect these technologies. The program is considering whether distinct regulatory guidance or requirements may be appropriate for these devices.

Radioactive Materials Division

Sheila Nelson, Radioactive Materials Division Director, reported that the division successfully completed the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP) review despite staff turnover and staffing shortages.

Nelson explained that the NRC is pursuing significant regulatory changes that will affect Virginia's regulations because Virginia is an Agreement State and must maintain compatibility with applicable NRC requirements.

She noted that the NRC had presented proposed changes to Agreement States for review and comment and that Agreement States were collaborating on the regulatory updates.

Jeffrey Siebers asked how he and other Radiation Advisory Board members could assist the Radioactive Materials Program with the regulatory updates and gave support to ensure alignment in the decision making process.

Nelson encouraged licensees and Board members to provide feedback on the proposed regulatory changes. She emphasized the importance of gathering input and guidance to support informed decisions.

Nelson also discussed the division's transition to a new database system, referred to as WBL and described the anticipated benefits of the transition for division operations.

Radiation Advisory Board Members

Les Foldesi expressed concern that ORH staff are spending time addressing fusion energy regulations without dedicated funding to support that work. He stated that fees paid by Radioactive Materials licensees and X-ray registrants should not be used to support fusion-related activities and emphasized the need for additional funding.

Foldesi also raised concerns about the anticipated activities of Commonwealth Fusion Systems, noting that questions remain regarding the company's plans and that unresolved issues could complicate the licensing process.

Matthew Ettinger acknowledged that ORH has similar questions and is actively evaluating the emerging issues. He noted that the technology and associated regulatory considerations are still in the early stages of development and that many details remain unresolved.

Public Comments

No public comments were recorded.

Next Meeting

The Board discussed scheduling its next meeting and the possibility of meeting in early 2027. March or April 2027 was suggested; however, a date was not finalized.

The Board also discussed opportunities to provide feedback on proposed regulatory changes and whether a separate meeting focused on strictly regulatory review would be beneficial. Allen Goode discussed the value of having a few small working sessions to facilitate regulatory review and feedback between formal Board meetings.

Adjournment

Matthew Ettinger adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.