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Ohio Department of Health

Sunset Review Committee
Radiation Advisory Council

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Chairman Jordan and members of the Sunset Review Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the Radiation Advisory Council. My name is Lance Himes, and I serve as General Counsel at the Ohio Department of Health.

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) administers several radiation protection programs that regulate the possession, use, handling, storage and disposal of radiation sources in order to maintain a radiation dose as low as reasonably achievable to the general population. The thirteen-member Radiation Advisory Council was established to advise and consult with the Director of Health on radiation protection issues in Ohio, including the development of rules pertaining to inspection criteria, procedures, and consideration of national standards. The Radiation Advisory Council holds four quarterly public meetings each year and has established two additional committees to focus on specific components of Ohio's radiation control program. One committee is focused on radioactive material issues and the other is focused on radiation-generating equipment issues. ODH provides liaisons to each of the council committees and provides administrative support necessary to execute its duties.

The council is funded through license and registration fees charged to radioactive material licensees and radiation-generating equipment registrants. Members of the council receive a per diem compensation and are reimbursed for actual expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties.

Radiation control is a highly sensitive public health issue, and the council serves primarily as a rule review and rule advisory body to ODH on this topic. The work of the council could be accomplished through an ad hoc rule advisory committee to the Bureau of Environmental Health and Radiation Protection, similar to rule advisory committees that advise other ODH programs when administrative rules are being reviewed.

ODH values the work of the Council, but feels that the same level of input can be offered to the Department through a less formalized and bureaucratic process. Therefore, ODH recommends that the Council be sunset by the Sunset Review Committee. We are committed to maintaining the same level of communication and engagement between the Department and these valuable stakeholders and subject matter experts, but in a more efficient manner.

Thank you for your consideration, and at this time I am available to answer any questions you may have.