

- Bureau of Motor Vehicles
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Sunset Review Committee
April 26, 2016 – 3:30 p.m.
Ohio Department of Public Safety Testimony

Chair Jordan and Members of the Sunset Review Committee:

My name is Michael Bear, and I am the Chief of the Radiological Branch for the Ohio Emergency Management Agency (EMA), a division of the Ohio Department of Public Safety. Thank you for the invitation to be here this afternoon.

In my brief remarks, I want to explain why it is in the best interests of Ohioans to maintain the current Utility Radiological Safety Board. The safety of Ohioans is assured through this entity and the quality of life in our state is enhanced through the important work being done.

The Utility Radiological Safety Board was established under Amended Substitute House Bill 111 by the General Assembly in July of 1989 to develop a comprehensive policy for the state regarding nuclear power safety and to establish a memorandum of understanding with the federal nuclear regulatory commission and the state. Additionally, the Board's objectives are to promote safe, reliable, and economical power and recommend policies and practices that promote safety, performance, emergency preparedness, and public health standards that are designed to meet Ohio's needs.

It should also be noted that in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code the Board negotiates for funding biennially with the FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company to fulfill federal off site response requirements. Such compliance allows for the continued maintenance of existing response equipment and training programs designed to help prepare and respond to a nuclear incident.

The Utility Radiological Safety Board is composed of the Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission, the Director of Environmental Protection, the Director of Health, the Director of Agriculture, the Executive Director of the Emergency Management Agency, and the Director of Commerce or their designees. Each designee must be an employee of the represented member agency.

Members do not receive compensation but rather they are reimbursed for ordinary and necessary expenses incurred for board business, including travel expenses. All such expenses are to be paid by the agency who is being represented by the board member.

There is no mention in statute about the frequency of meetings – Operationally, the Utility Radiological Safety Committee meets quarterly. The administrative support for the meetings is primarily provided by staff of the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, and total of 58 staff hours are devoted annually to meetings of this Board.

Mission Statement

"to save lives, reduce injuries and economic loss, to administer Ohio's motor vehicle laws and to preserve the safety and well being of all citizens with the most cost-effective and service-oriented methods available."

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In closing, Chair Jordan and Members of the Sunset Review Committee, thank you again for the opportunity to testify this afternoon. On behalf of Ohio Department of Public Safety Director John Born, we recommend reauthorization of the Utility Radiological Safety Board.

At this time, I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

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