Duties and Responsibilities of the Radiation Safety Committee (RSC)
Virginia Commonwealth University/VCU Health

The committee is responsible for reviewing personnel dosimetry data, discussing the results of required radiation surveys, and any significant incidents, including spills, contamination, medical events, etc. The RSC is also required to review the program for maintaining doses ALARA and providing any necessary recommendations to ensure doses are ALARA. The overall compliance status for authorized users should be thoroughly reviewed. The RSC, working with the executive management, shares responsibility with the RSO for conducting periodic audits of the radiation safety program. Additionally, the Committee reviews any consultant's audit findings and acts upon those findings. The RSC also reviews the results of the annual audit of the radiation safety program. Possible trends should be analyzed and suggestions for timely and corrective action should be made. Problems should be clearly defined and reviewed in the future as open items. An assessment of the effectiveness of corrective actions is also helpful in deterring or eliminating future problems and violations.

One of the primary responsibilities of the RSC for a broad scope program is to evaluate new users and new uses of radioactive material. The RSC needs to consider all available information in making decisions. This includes evaluating the training and experience of applicants who request authorization to use radioactive material at the facility, using criteria developed by the RSC. The RSC members should be aware of the regulatory training and experience criteria that apply to each type of use at their institution. For example, 12VAC5-481 ‘Virginia Radiation Protection Regulations’ Part VII ‘Use of Radionuclides in the Healing Arts’ contains the training and experience required for authorized users in medical programs. The criteria developed by the committee should include such things as the requester's training and experience, the proposed facilities, the protocol for using radioactive material to ensure that all procedures are in accordance with good radiation safety practices, and waste disposal.