

RTR EXPLORER

SUMMER, 2010

USNRC

Re-NEWS

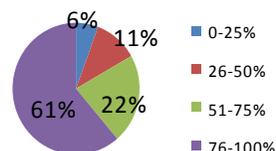
Two years ago, the commission directed the staff to complete RTR license renewals by September 30th, 2010 and have shown their support for this mission by providing resources in support of this task.

The Commission directed the staff to implement a streamlined process and additional resources to facilitate the completion of the backlogged license renewals. One year later, with the cooperation and support of our

Licensees, we have made enormous progress. More than 61% of the renewals of the backlog have been completed or are nearing completion (76-100%).

>>

Percent Completed



Upcoming Proposed Rule for "The Unescorted"

NRC is proposing to amend its regulations to require RTR licensees to obtain a fingerprint-based criminal history records check before granting any individual unescorted access to their facilities. The new rule is required by Section 652 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAAct), which amended Section 149 of the Atomic Energy Act (AEA) to require fingerprinting, a Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) identification, and a criminal history records check of any person permitted unescorted access to a "utilization facility," a category that includes non-power reactors like RTRs.

The proposed rule is expected to be published as a *Federal Register Notice* later this month, and will provide 75 calendar days for public comments. (NRC will consider comments received after the 75-day formal comment period if practicable, but the agency isn't required to respond to comments submitted after this deadline.)

Anyone interested in gathering more information about the rule can go to

<http://www.regulations.gov>

and search for documents filed under Docket ID NRC-2008-0619. Comments submitted in writing or in electronic form will be posted on regulations.gov under this docket number, or under the Rule-making Identification Number RIN-3150-A125. Because your comments will not be edited to remove any identifying or contact information, you should not include any information you do not want to be publicly disclosed. The NRC requests that any party soliciting or aggregating comments received from other persons for submission to the NRC inform those persons that the NRC will not edit their comments to remove any identifying or contact information, and therefore, they should not include any information in their comments that they do not want publicly disclosed.

New Staff on board!

- **Jessie Quichocho** as RTR Licensing *Branch Chief!*
- **Steven Lynch** as RTR Projects Branch new hire!
- **Adam Golubski** as RTR Projects Branch summer intern! (Purdue University)
- **Ellen McManis** as RTR Oversight Branch summer intern! (Reed College)
- **Maggie Watford** as RTR Licensing Branch summer intern! (Purdue University)

What row of numbers comes next in this series?

1
11
21
1211
111221
312211
13112221

Answer on back page



What did the SRO order for breakfast?

SCRAMbled Eggs!



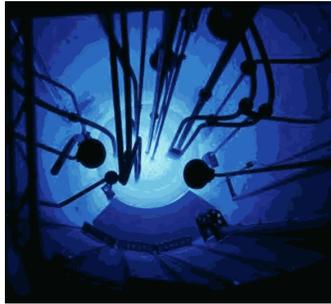
What did the fuel assembly call the regulating rod?

A Control Freak!

In the Life of License Renewals

Our goal is to complete these renewals by September 30, 2010:

- *University of New Mexico*
- *Massachusetts Institute of Technology*
- *University of Florida*
- *Washington State University*
- *University of California at Irvine*
- *University of Maryland*
- *University of Wisconsin*
- *Texas A&M TRIGA*
- *Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute*



Reed College RTR

Our goal is to complete these renewals as soon as possible after September 30, 2010 but no later than June 30, 2011:

- *University of Missouri at Columbia*
- *Reed College*
- *University of Utah*
- *Rhode Island Atomic Energy Commission*
- *Texas A&M AGN*
- *AFRRRI*
- *Dow Chemical Corporation*
- *United State Geological Survey*
- *TRIGA*
- *Purdue*
- *Aerotest*

To meet our goals, we need the help and support of the licensees. We may ask for what appears to be aggressive timing on responses for additional information but the renewal project managers will take the time necessary to ensure that you fully understand our questions and the reasons we need to ask them. Some of our questions may be technically challenging or resource and time consuming but we have worked with DOE to provide support on addressing technical issues. Communication is the key to our joint success on this endeavor.

If you have any questions, please contact your renewal project manager.

CONGRATULATIONS!

With the support of the Licensees, the staff has made excellent progress toward completing license renewals. Congratulations to:

Oregon
NIST
Missouri-Rolla
Penn State



on their renewed licenses! Penn State had the honor of featuring in the February, 2010 edition of Nuclear News for the completion of their renewal.

How are you doing? Contact your Licensing PM for more information!



DOE Support

NRC worked with the Department of Energy's Research Reactor Infrastructure Program to secure funding for license renewal activities. DOE is currently in discussion with six RTR facilities, and is already providing support to one RTR facility in its renewal process. To find out if your facility qualifies for funding, contact Jim Wade or visit the DoE website at:

208-526-6876 /wadejr@id.doe.gov

<http://www.ne.doe.gov/universityPrograms/neUniversity2c.html>

HEU to LEU

NRC requires licensees of non-power reactors, who were authorized to possess and use high-enriched uranium (HEU), to convert from HEU to low-enriched uranium (LEU) fuel if Federal funding is available.

Since 1984, NRC has approved the conversion of 16 non-power reactors from HEU to LEU fuel and has generically approved TRIGA, silicide plate, and SPERT LEU fuels.

Currently NRC is working closely with DOE to plan the HEU to LEU conversion for 3 out of the 4 remaining NRC licensed non-power reactors that are still using HEU fuel by 2015.