



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
RHODE ISLAND ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
Rhode Island Nuclear Science Center
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Notification of Non-Compliance with Technical Specification 6.2.2 Qualifications of the Radiation Safety Officer

Document Control Desk
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

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Event:

On April 24, 2013, after a careful review of the qualifications of the Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) at the Rhode Island Nuclear Science Center, the Rhode Island Atomic Energy Commission at its special meeting for this purpose concluded that the current RSO does not have the requisite educational and experience qualifications as stated in T.S. 6.2.2 which states:

RSO must have a master's degree in the field of "health physics or radiological health and three years of applied physics experience in a program with radiation safety problems similar to those in the program to be managed."

Immediate Action:

The Commission voted to cease operations immediately until compliance could be achieved. At the time the reactor was not in operation.

At 10:10 AM Dr. Kadak and Mr. Jeffrey Davis Operations Director called the NRC operations center to report this non-compliance and subsequent action. This non-compliance is classified as a Reportable Occurrence under Technical Specification 1.2.5.8:

"An observed inadequacy in the implementation of administrative or procedural controls such that the inadequacy causes or threatens to cause the existence or development of an unsafe condition in connection with the operation of the facility"

Background:

The RI AEC was investigating the qualifications of the staff health physicist (not the RSO) when the Commission received the March 25, 2013 NRC inspector's report which focused on the health physics function which concluded among other things:

"The Inspector reviewed the background of the newly promoted individual and determined that this individual had the work experience and educational background required by T.S. 6.2.2 (referring to the RSO): (1.a.)"

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Additionally the inspector also commented on the new health physicist by stating:

"the new health physicist appeared to have the appropriate background for that job. ~~As a result of this review, Dr. Mecca called the inspector inquiring as to the criteria used to make the finding and what information was provided to the inspector since the Commission was at the time questioning the qualifications of the newly hired HP based on the lack of qualifications relative to meeting state hiring requirements.~~

Recognizing that the NRC does not have requirements for the HP but only for the RSO position in the technical specifications, the Commission chose to investigate the ~~with~~ qualifications having already studied those of the HP relative to state requirements. Both investigations lead to the finding of lack of qualifications for both people.

The new RSO has been in his position since September 2012 with no apparent violations identified in the Radiological Protection area at the RINSC.

Apparent Cause:

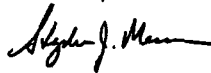
The hiring of the RSO was done by the past Executive Director (no longer employed at the facility) without checking the Technical Specification Requirements.

The RIAEC has had a search for a new Executive Director since January 2013 after the sudden retirement of the past Executive Director in December 2012.

Commission Actions:

1. The Commission is reviewing the hiring practices to assure that such situations do not occur in the future.
2. In the short term, the Commission is seeking to hire a qualified RSO contractor to oversee the work of the existing RSO and only allow operation when the qualified person is on site.
3. Considering options for a permanent solution that may result in a search for a new qualified RSO to resume normal operations. This will require approval by the Rhode Island Department of Administration.

Submitted by:



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Chairman
Rhode Island Atomic Energy Commission

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