



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

RHODE ISLAND ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

Nuclear Science Center
South Ferry Road
Narragansett, R.I. 02882-1197

January 12, 1996

Mr. Marvin Mendonca, Senior Project Manager
Non-Power Reactors, Decommissioning and
Environmental Project Directorate
Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV/V
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

License R-95
Docket No. 50-193

Dear Mr. Mendonca:

This letter provides answers to your letter of August 3, 1995 concerning a revision of the Rhode Island Nuclear Science Center Technical Specifications to combine the Radiation Safety Committee and the Reactor Utilization Committee into a single committee called the Nuclear and Radiation Safety Committee (NRSC).

Technical specification 6.1 was changed to reflect the new name of the Nuclear Radiation Safety Committee and to indicate two qualified representatives from the faculty of the University of Rhode Island. The purpose for adding these representatives is to provide more direct input from the main user groups of the facility. One member will be chosen from the main campus and one member from the Bay Campus. Vertical change bars have been added in the right margin to reflect this change.

Figure 6-1 has been revised to reflect the revisions to the name and composition of the committees shown on the organizational chart.

The Assistant Director for Reactor Operations has been added to the NRSC to provide additional technical expertise to the committee. Additionally, the Assistant Director has been added to the list of personnel not eligible for chairmanship of the committee. Vertical change bars have been added to the right margin to reflect this change.

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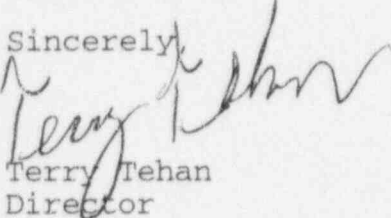
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Technical Specifications 6.4.4 and 6.5 have been corrected to remove reference to the previous Utilization Committee. A quorum has been specified to include a majority of the members plus representation from radiation safety, technical staff and the chairman. A requirement has been added to retain the minutes of the previous Reactor Utilization Committee for the life of the facility. Vertical change bars have been added to reflect this change.

If there are any questions regarding this change, please call me at 401-789-9391.

Sincerely,



Terry Tehan
Director

TT:cd

Enclosure (revised pages 53,54,56,58,59,60,61,62,66)

cc: Tom Dragoun, NRC, Region One

6.0 ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROLS

6.1 Organization and Management

1. The Rhode Island Atomic Energy Commission (**RIAEC**) shall have the responsibility for the safe operation of the reactor. The organization of RIAEC is shown in Figure 6-1. The RIAEC shall appoint a Director and a Nuclear and Radiation Safety Committee (**NRSC**) consisting of a minimum of seven members, as follows:
 - a. The Director, RIAEC
 - b. The Assistant Director for Reactor Operations
 - c. The Radiation Safety Officer
 - d. A qualified representative from the faculty of Brown University
 - e. A qualified representative from the faculty of Providence College
 - f. Two qualified representatives from the faculty of the University of Rhode Island

A qualified alternate may serve in lieu of one of the above. The Director, Assistant Director and Radiation Safety Officer are not eligible for chairmanship of the Committee.

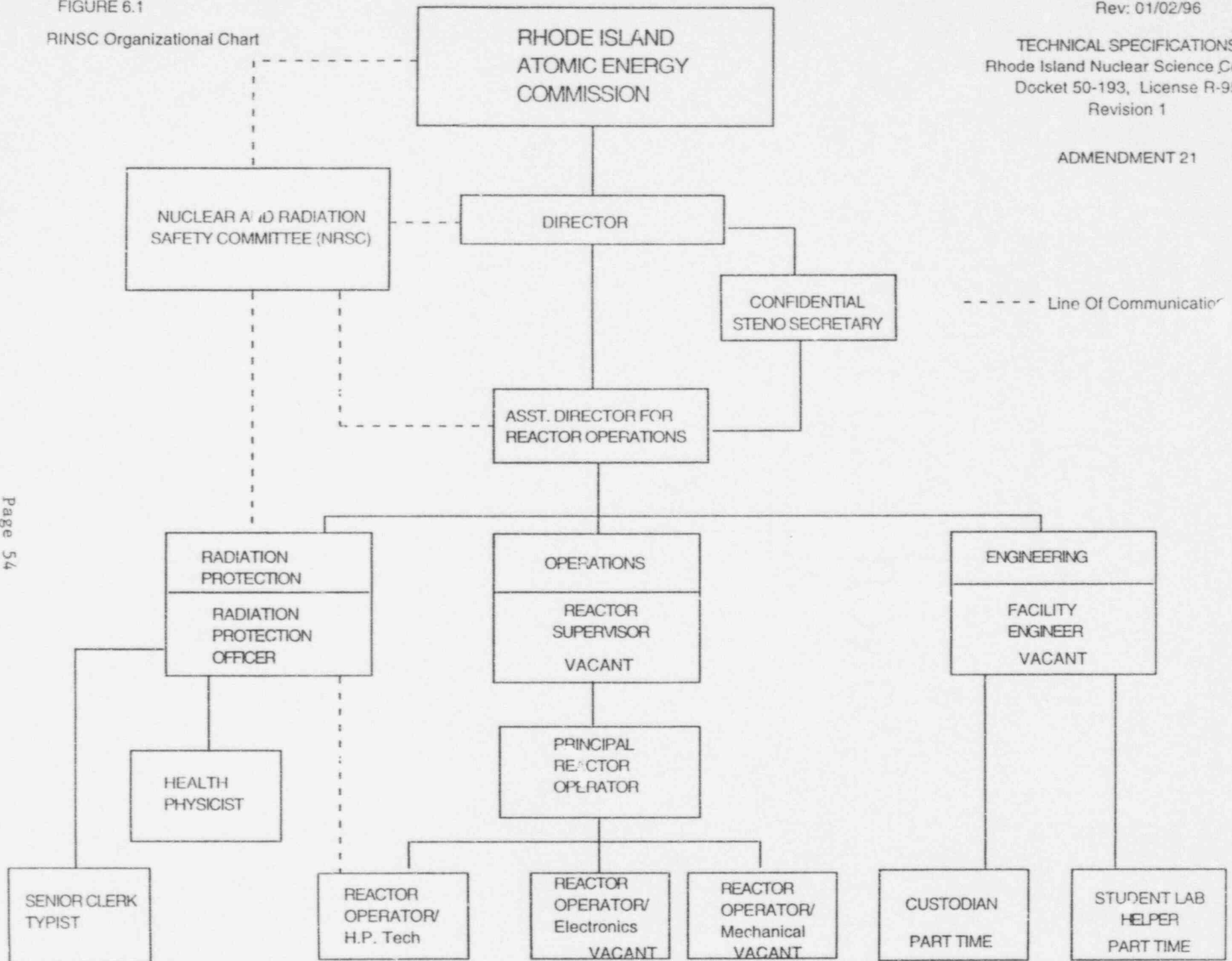
2. An operator or senior operator licensed pursuant to 10CFR55 shall be present in the control room unless the reactor is secured as defined in these specifications. The minimum operating crew shall be two individuals.
3. A licensed senior operator shall be on duty or readily available on call whenever the reactor is in operation.

FIGURE 6.1
RINSC Organizational Chart

Rev: 01/02/96

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being performed in the facility including those of outside agencies.

- b. It shall be the responsibility of the Director to insure that all proposed experiments, design modifications, or changes in operating and emergency procedures are performed in accordance with the license. Where uncertainty exists, the Director shall refer the decision to the NRSC.

2. Senior Reactor Operators

- a. A licensed senior reactor operator pursuant to 10CFR55 shall be assigned each shift and be responsible for all activities during his shift which may affect reactor operation or involve radiation hazards. The reactor operators on duty shall be responsible directly to the senior operator.
- b. The identity of and method for rapidly contacting the on-call senior reactor operator shall be known to the reactor operator on duty. The on-call senior reactor operator must be capable of being contacted by the duty reactor operator within ten minutes. The senior reactor operator shall be present at the facility during initial startup and approach to power, recovery from an unplanned or unscheduled shutdown or significant reduction in power, and refueling. The name of the person serving as senior reactor operator as well as the time he assumes the duty shall be entered in the reactor log. When the senior operator is relieved, he shall turn the operation duties over to another licensed senior operator.

- d. The operator, under the senior reactor operator on duty, shall be responsible for the operation of the reactor according to the approved operating procedures.
- e. The operator shall be authorized at any time to reduce the power of the reactor or to scram the reactor without reference to higher authority, when in his judgment such action appears advisable or necessary for the safety of the reactor, related equipment, or personnel. Any person working on the reactor bridge shall be similarly authorized to scram the reactor by pressing a scram button located on the bridge.

4. Radiation Safety Officer

The Radiation Safety Officer shall be responsible for assuring that adequate radiation monitoring and control are in effect to prevent undue exposure of individuals to radiation.

6.4 Review and Audit

1. The NRSC shall review reactor operations to assure that the facility is operated in a manner consistent with public safety and within the terms of the facility license.
2. The responsibilities of the NRSC include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a. Audit of operating, and emergency procedures and records.
 - b. Review and audit of proposed tests and experiments utilizing the reactor facilities.

- c. Review and audit of proposed changes to the facility systems or equipment, procedures, and operations.
 - d. Determination of whether a proposed change, test, or experiment would constitute an unreviewed safety question which may require a change to the Technical Specifications or facility license.
 - e. Review of all violations of the Technical Specifications and Nuclear Regulatory Commission Regulations, and significant violations of internal rules or procedures, with recommendations for corrective action to prevent recurrence.
 - f. Review of the qualifications and competency of the operating organization to assure retention of staff quality.
 - g. Review changes to the NRSC charter.
 - h. Review, at least annually, the radiation safety aspects of the facility.
3. The NRSC shall have a written charter defining such matters as the authority of the Committee, the subjects within its purview, and other such administrative provisions as are required for effective functioning of the Committee. Minutes of all meetings of the Committee shall be kept. All minutes of the previous Reactor Utilization Committee shall be retained for the life of the facility.
4. A quorum of the NRSC shall consist of not less than four (4) members and shall include the Radiation Safety Officer or designee, the Director or the Assistant Director for Operations and the Chairman or designee.

5. The NRSC shall meet at least annually.

6.5 Operating Procedures

Written procedures, reviewed and approved by the NRSC, shall be used for items 1-9 listed below. The procedures shall be adequate to assure the safe operation of the reactor, but should not preclude the use of independent judgment and action should the situation require such.

1. Startup, operation and shutdown of the reactor;
2. Installation and removal of fuel elements, control blades and incore devices where necessary;
3. Maintenance procedures which could have an effect on reactor safety;
4. Periodic surveillance of reactor instrumentation and safety systems, area monitors, and continuous air monitors;
5. Implementation of the physical Security Plan and Emergency Plan;
6. Radiation control procedures;
7. Receipt, inspection, and storage of new fuel elements;
8. Storage and shipment of irradiated fuel elements.
9. Experiment review on a case-by-case basis assuring that section 3.8.3(2) of ANSI/ANS 15.1 is satisfied. Operational approval shall be by written approval by a licensed senior operator. Written procedures should be established and supervision of the installation of such experiments shall be defined and exercised.

Substantive changes to the above procedures shall be made only with the approval of the NRSC. Temporary changes to the procedures that do not change their original intent may be made by a Senior Operator. Temporary changes to procedures shall be documented and subsequently reviewed by the NRSC Subcommittee.

6.6 Action to be Taken in the Event of a Reportable Occurrence

In the event of a reportable occurrence:

1. The Senior Reactor Operator shall be notified promptly and corrective action shall be taken immediately to place the facility in a safe condition until the cause of the reportable occurrence is determined and corrected.
2. The Director shall report the occurrence to the NRSC. The report shall include an analysis of the cause of the occurrence, corrective actions taken, and recommendations for appropriate action to prevent or reduce the probability of a repetition of the occurrence.
3. The NRSC shall review the report and the corrective actions taken.
4. Notification shall be made to the NRC in accordance with Paragraph 6.8 of these specifications.

6.7 Action to be Taken in the Event a Safety Limit is Exceeded

In the event a Safety Limit has been exceeded:

1. The reactor will be shut down and reactor operations will not be resumed until authorization is obtained from the NRC.
2. Immediate notification shall be made to the NRC in accordance with paragraph 6.8 of these specifications and to the Director.
3. A prompt report shall be prepared by the Senior Reactor Operator. The report shall include a complete analysis of the causes of the event and the extent of possible damage together with recommendations to prevent or reduce the probability of recurrence. This report shall be submitted to the NRSC for review and appropriate action, and a suitable similar report shall be submitted to the NRC in accordance with Paragraph 6.8 of these specifications and in support of a request for authorization for resumption of operations.

6.8 Reporting Requirements

In addition to the requirements of applicable regulations, all written reports shall be sent to the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Attn: Document Control Desk, Washington, DC 20555, with a copy to the Region I Administrator. The written reports include the following:

1. Within 24 hours, a report by telephone through the NRC Operation Center, 301-951-0550 and the NRC Region 1:
 - a. Any accidental release of radioactivity to unrestricted areas above permissible limits, whether or not the release resulted in property damage, personal injury or exposure.
 - b. Any significant variation of measured values from a corresponding predicted or

- g. Fuel inventories and transfers; and
 - h. Changes to procedures systems, components, and equipment.
2. Records to be retained for the life of the facility:
- a. Gaseous and liquid radioactive effluents released to the environs;
 - b. Off-site environmental monitoring surveys;
 - c. Personnel radiation exposures;
 - d. Updated, "as-built" drawings of the facility; and
 - e. Minutes of the NRSC (and previous Reactor Utilization Committee) meetings.