



# NPR EXPLORER

NEWS AND NOTES FOR THE NON-POWER REACTOR COMMUNITY

FALL 2011

US Nuclear Regulatory Commission Vol. II No. 2

## Rulemaking: Fingerprinting & License Renewal

### FINGERPRINTING

On November 29, 2011, NRC's Commissioners affirmed their unanimous approval of the final rule requiring fingerprinting of specific individuals seeking unescorted access to Non-Power Reactor facilities.

The staff's recommendation, ADAMS ML11250144, was accepted with a few minor changes, and communicated via (SRM)-SECY-11-0107, ADAMS ML113330188. After approval by the OMB, NRC will publish a Federal Register Notice, and licensees will be required to implement this rule within 180 days.

The final rule replaces previously issued orders in 2006 and 2007. Licensees will be relieved of the old orders once NRC issues confirmation that the licensee has successfully implemented the new rule. Stakeholder comments led to changes in the statements of consideration and a lengthened implementation period.

Contact: Scott Sloan

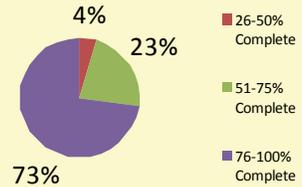
### LICENSE RENEWAL

On December 19, 2011, NRC hosted a public meeting entitled: "Options for Developing The Regulatory Basis For Streamlining Non-Power Reactor License Renewal And

Non-Power Reactor Emergency Preparedness." The slide presentation is available in ADAMS [ML113550111](#); the summary is [ML113630166](#).

Comments received during the meeting from participants will be incorporated into the draft regulatory basis due to be ready in the Spring 2012. Stakeholders are encouraged to provide comments while the draft is being formulated. When the draft is issued, there will be another opportunity for comments on the draft regulatory basis.  
Contact: Duane Hardesty

### RTR License Renewal Completion



**1 Renewal Completed**  
**First Quarter Fiscal Year 2012**

**On October 31, 2011, NRC issued the renewed, 20-year Facility License No. R-126 for University of Utah.**

## Progress Toward Reliable Medical Mo-99 Supply

In December 2011, the Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration, organized a Mo-99 Topical Meeting attended by potential domestic producers, current foreign producers, and government and private stakeholders. The NRC has been tracking this activity closely because it will ultimately license most of the domestic producers. There were a number of intertwined international issues addressed at the meeting, in addition to licensing matters.

Contact: Marc Voth.

## NRC's First Blog on Non-Power Reactors

NRC published its first blog on non-power reactors on November 10, 2011:

<http://public-blog.nrc-gateway.gov/2011/11/10/the-nuclear-reactors-that-power-knowledge-not-light-bulbs/>

This first blog was designed to familiarize the general public with the scope, size and purposes of non-power reactors.

This blog also describes the inspection program of non-power reactors.

2 comments have been posted in response:

**Clarisa R. November 16, 2011 at 10:35 pm**

This was a very interesting read. I did not know about these test reactors, and I can see why they might be very useful if not vital for future use. Scattering Neutrons, I did not know that this could be done. Thank you for informing us.

**clarke@kratomplants.com November 8, 2011 at 5:59 pm**

I never knew that there were test nuclear reactors. Neutron scattering must have a wide application w/ many different types of materials.

Contact: Cindy Montgomery

## Staff Changes: Welcome to Dr. Sher Bahadur

Dr. Sher Bahadur will be joining the Division of Policy and Rulemaking as a Deputy Division Director on January 3, 2012. Dr. Bahadur's principal responsibilities will be senior management oversight of the Rulemaking Branch and the Generic Communications and Power Uprate Branch. Dr. Bahadur joined the NRC in 1984 as a Project Manager in the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS). From 1988 to 1989, he served as Technical Assistant for Materials and Waste on former Chairman Zech's staff. Since joining the SES in 1989, Dr. Bahadur has served in a number of senior management positions including Branch Chief for various branches in the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES); Associate

Director for Technical Support, Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards/ Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste; Deputy Director for various divisions in RES. In December 2008, he was selected for his current position as Deputy Director, Division of Safety Systems, NRR. Dr. Bahadur received a B.S. degree in Geology and a M.S. degree in Engineering Geology, both from India, and a Ph.D. in Geotechnical Engineering from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. **Warm welcome to Sher.**

## NRC Staff Provide Status of License Renewals in Memo to NRC Commissioners

*As of December 8, 2011, the backlog of license renewals has declined to nine applications. Three license renewal reviews not in the backlog are in progress. The biggest challenges are in-house thermal hydraulics and neutronics analyses. The Department of Energy is providing assistance with these analyses for some university reactors. Contact: Linh Tran*

## ANS's Position Statement 53

The ANS issued position statement 53 on Research and Training Reactors. The statement describes ANS's recognition that RTRs are vital elements of the U.S. nuclear science and technology education, training, and research infrastructure.

Further, RTRs serve the nation's interest in research, education, and service. RTRs have exemplary safety records befitting their research and education mission, and their designs are scalable according to their missions.

### STATEMENT OF SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

The ANS recognizes the specialized roles that RTRs fulfill in university, government, and industry programs as they collectively help to achieve and maintain U.S. technical leadership in nuclear research. RTRs provide an important and unique tool to meet the scientific challenges

of today and the future. However, the future of the RTR community in the U.S. is at risk. The continuing decline in financial support within the U.S. government for basic RTR infrastructure, as well as the increased cost relicensing and security measures, may force universities and research institutes to terminate their RTR programs.

Therefore, the ANS believes that special consideration should be given to:

- Continued national funding support to maintain and expand RTR fuel and infrastructure programs, without which RTR programs are at risk of declining;
- U.S. government funding and encouragement of collaborative efforts between government facilities and universities to enhance the utilization of existing RTRs; and
- Efforts to identify and address the future needs by working towards development and deployment of the next generation of nuclear research and training facilities. For details, Go to

<http://www.new.ans.org/pi/ps/docs/ps53.pdf>