



NRC NEWS

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NRC Bans Individual and Suspends Operator License; Issues Confirmatory Order to Reed College over Misconduct at Research Reactor

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued an [order](#) banning a Reed College employee from NRC-licensed activities for three years and suspending the person's senior reactor operator license for deliberately providing incomplete and inaccurate information to the NRC for reactor operator license applications, as well as violations of facility access control requirements at the Reed Research Reactor in Portland, Ore. The agency has also issued Reed College a [Confirmatory Order](#) regarding the case.

The NRC concluded that the employee, the director of the Reed Research Reactor, on two occasions in 2015 deliberately provided the NRC inaccurate and incomplete information for students seeking operator licenses for the reactor. The agency also concluded the employee deliberately violated facility access control requirements for the reactor. These violations did not affect public health or safety. Nevertheless, the NRC determined the significance of the underlying issues, the employee's broad sphere of influence, and the deliberate nature of the actions justify the license suspension and three-year ban. The employee must respond to the Order in writing and has 30 days to request [alternative dispute resolution](#) or a hearing on the matter.

The NRC's Nov. 19, 2019, letter to Reed College regarding the case offered a mediated settlement through the agency's alternative dispute resolution process. The Confirmatory Order enforces the results of that process, which include Reed College waiving hearing rights on the matters covered in the settlement.

The college committed to revising many of its procedures on qualifying and requalifying reactor operators as well as procedures regarding unescorted access to the Reed Research Reactor. The college also committed to additional training for its staff on the need to provide the NRC with accurate and complete information; additional oversight of the facility by the school's president and dean of the faculty; and submitting a presentation regarding lessons learned from these events at an upcoming annual conference of research and test reactor licensees. The NRC will review the presentation to ensure it complies with the Confirmatory Order.

As part of the mediation process, the NRC agrees to forego additional enforcement action on this issue. Further details of the settlement are contained in the Confirmatory Order.