



The National Organization of Test, Research and Training Reactors

Q 1. March 3, 2025

A note from our Chair

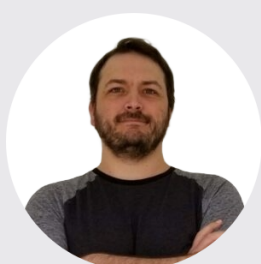
Good March to you all, TRTR, and best wishes for a wonderful spring.

This past season has certainly been filled with its challenges, and unfortunately, there does not seem to be a close end in sight. Uncertainty and unrest are rather strong in many groups and parts of the country, with the federal workforce and our nuclear facilities included in that population. We here at the USGS TRIGA Reactor have been approached about cutting our budget by 10%, 20%, and even up to 40%, have lost the ability to travel and effectively purchase anything, and decommissioning our facility is a very active topic. Some creative, alternative solutions have been proposed, but nothing is certain. This also extends to our colleagues at the NRC, as they are likely to see substantial budgetary constraints and unusual consequences from recent executive orders, particularly those regarding independent regulatory agencies. I would encourage you all to exercise additional compassion and patience as our regulator adapts to this changing landscape, further complicating an already challenging spectrum of duties.

Related to the subject of uncertainty, I'm sorry to announce that I will be retiring as TRTR Chairperson, effective April 1st. Though I'm extremely pleased that Dr. Cameron Goodwin has agreed to take the position earlier than scheduled and know that she will accomplish well beyond what I have. This decision comes from both many personal and professional challenges that I now face, substantially related to the state of our small reactor facility and changes in the federal government. I have not been able to dedicate as much time and effort to my duties as Chair as I had hoped and regret the lack of progress that I was able to achieve. If the oncoming chair would agree, I would like to continue to serve on your Executive Committee (though I think she might be OK with this).

Please continue to value the differences that make us such unique, excellent people and an exceptional community, as we would be poorer for the absence of any.

[Read More](#)



Jonathan Wallick
U.S. Geological Society

Tawfik Raby Memorial Scholarship Application Open

Apply by April 15!

[Apply here!](#)

Quarterly Call Summary (**ML25029A138**)

Status of NUREG-1478, Rev. 3, Operator Licensing Examiner Standards for RTRs
·Draft is complete; no date on when it will be available for public comment.

Potential Part 73 Rulemaking Status / Options Paper
·Draft with EDO for review; no timeline for completion of the review.

Transition from BOX to External SharePoint
·Expect Box to fully retire this fall.

Non-power Production or Utilization Facility (NPUF) Rule
·Published on February 12, 2025 in the [Federal Register](#)

Status of NUREG-1537
·Target is this summer for the public comment period.

Status of NEI 23-03 (10 CFR 50.59, Digital Modification Guidance)
·Efforts continue; public meeting on March 5, 2025

Sub-committee on Reactor Operator (RO)/Senior RO examinations
·Efforts continue. The subcommittee chair is unavailable.

Power Level Restrictions imposed on operators for temporary plant conditions
·Concern that some operator licenses are restricted to power levels lower than the reactor licensed power level while other operator licenses are issued for the full reactor licensed power but reactor power is restricted to lower levels. TRTR members need to understand why this is done and what is the justification.

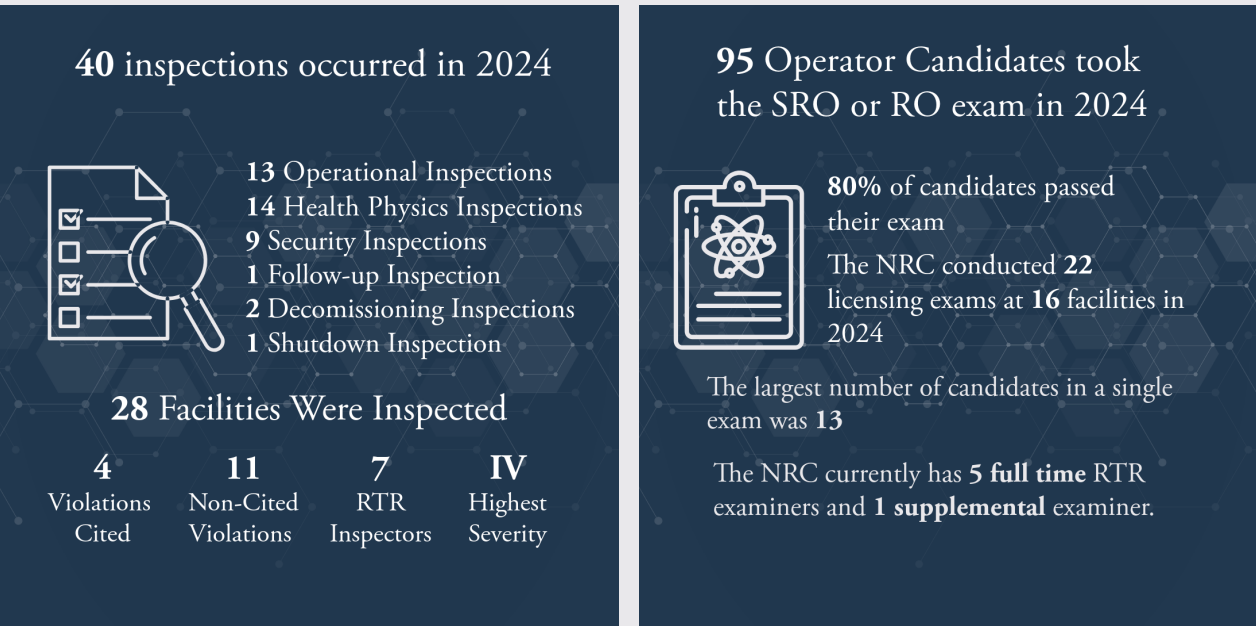
Self-Licensing Examinations
·See above RO/Senior RO examinations. The subcommittee chair is unavailable.

Expansion of Physician to include physician assistants, nurses, etc.
·This FAQ ([ML24135A315](#)) addresses the licensed physician certification of Form 396 (pg 124). It is suggested we coordinate potential rulemaking with the power reactor side. A good place to start would be the licensed operator group at NEI.

TRTR 2025, College Station, TX, September 8 -12
·Planning continues.

NRC Oversight Feedback
·One facility offered that their inspection program has gone very well.
·Amongst the community there have been challenges with the written exams requiring obscure SAR knowledge and triple or double negatives leading to confusing questions. The operations exam is highly variable.
·The docket trail regarding NIST fuel handling issues was very useful in understanding the human factors aspects of dealing with fuel handling.

2024 Year in Review



[Read More](#)

[Read More](#)

Reportable Occurrences

Massachusetts Institute Of Technology Reactor
[Event No 57487](#): The reactor key was left unattended in the console for approximately 3 minutes while the reactor was not secured. [ML25021A251](#)

Penn State Breazeale Reactor
[Event No 57565](#): The reactor was pulsed with a required power monitoring channel bypassed, so pulse power was not recorded.

See our website for a table of reportable occurrences.

[Read More](#)

Inspection Reports

Massachusetts Institute of Technology Reactor
Severity Level IV: A Senior Reactor Operator performed licensed activities without having completed all aspects of the Requal Plan. [ML24348A139](#)

Texas A&M Nuclear Science Center AGN-201 Reactor
Non-cited: Failure to submit annual reports within the required timeframe, failure to inform the NRC of changes to the Emergency Plan within 30 days. [ML25023A273](#)

Texas A&M Nuclear Science Center TRIGA Reactor
Severity Level IV: Failure to perform audits at the required frequency, **Non-cited:** Failure to submit annual reports at the required frequency, failure to submit Reportable Occurrence follow-ups in the required time period, and failure to calibrate Area Radiation Monitors at the required intervals. [ML25014A182](#)

NIST Center for Neutron Research
No violations. [ML25014A433](#)

See our website for a table of inspection reports.

[Read More](#)

Licensing Actions

Texas A&M Nuclear Science Center TRIGA Reactor
License Amendment Request to modify possession limits to allow for the possession of byproduct material not created by the reactor. [ML24340A112](#)

University of New Mexico AGN-201 Reactor
License Amendment Request to modify the language used to specify the fuel materials in the license for better accuracy. [ML25027A371](#)

See our website for a table of licensing actions.

[Read More](#)

EVENTS

- March 6: [NRC Public Meeting – NIST Center for Neutron Research License Amendment](#)
- March 10-13: [International Workshop: Multiphysics of Energy and Environmental Applications](#)
- April 1-4: [Workshop on the Research Reactor Database for Facility Data Providers](#)
- April 6-10: [European Research Reactor Conference](#)

ISOTOPIC TOPICS

[A career in nuclear starts with you!](#)

A new website from NEI "allows students and potential job seekers the ability to identify career and/or education opportunities in the industry."

[Coloring Book: Women of the Manhattan Project](#)

Enjoy this coloring book from the Department of Energy.

Website Updates

Resources -> Technical Documents

Tables to track [inspection reports](#), [operating licensing exams](#), [licensing actions](#), and [reportable occurrences](#)

About -> Member Facilities

Each [member facility](#) has a dedicated page that includes a brief description and associated license documents. [Contact us](#) if we need to make any changes.