**U.S.NRC**
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
*Protecting People and the Environment*

Home > Nuclear Reactors > Research & Test Reactors

# Research & Test Reactors

On this page:

- Regulatory Oversight
- Security
- Program Management
- Inspection
- Operator Licensing

## Regulatory Oversight

The NRC's Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) has oversight responsibility for the licensing of operating research and test reactors. Within NRR, the staff within the Research and Test Reactors Branches of the Division of Policy and Rulemaking (DPR) performs most functions associated with the regulation of research and test reactors. These efforts take the facility from initial licensing through transition to decommissioning status. The Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs (FSME) has project management and inspection oversight for decommissioning research and test reactors. There are three major oversight responsibilities for operating research and test reactors: Program Management, Inspection, and Operator Licensing.

- Map of Operating Research and Test Reactors
- Backgrounder on Research and Test Reactors

The Research and Test Reactor staff offer an introductory course that provides a general familiarity with Research and Test Reactor designs, facilities, equipment, operating characteristics, technical specifications, inspection requirements, and current areas of concern to the NRC.

For additional information, and or interest in attending the introductory course, please Contact Us.

△ TOP

## Security

Since the 1970's, the NRC has required security at research and test reactors in accordance with NRC regulations (10 CFR Part 73) . The NRC requires research and test reactors to maintain security plans or procedures that are designed to detect, deter, assess and respond to unauthorized activities. Research and test reactor security uses a graded approach with increasing requirements depending on the type of fuel or amount of radiological materials (i.e., higher licensed power level). Research and test reactor security follows a defense-in-depth philosophy similar to that employed at nuclear power plants.

- Security Timeline
- Security Spotlight
- Security FAQ