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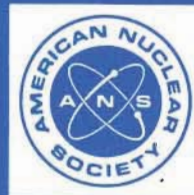
WITHDRAWN

**November 14, 2004
ANSI/ANS-15.10-1994**

decommissioning of research reactors

an American National Standard

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**American National Standard
for Decommissioning of
Research Reactors**

Secretariat
American Nuclear Society

Prepared by the
**American Nuclear Society
Standards Committee
Working Group ANS-15.10**

Published by the
**American Nuclear Society
555 North Kensington Avenue
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American National Standard

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Foreword (This Foreword is not a part of American National Standard for Decommissioning of Research Reactors, ANSI/ANS-15.10-1994, but is included to provide a background and explain the need for non-power reactor standards and criteria concerning the use of those standards.)

The American Nuclear Society Standards Secretariat established Subcommittee ANS-15 in the fall of 1970 with the task of preparing a standard for the operation of research reactors. In January 1972, this charter was expanded to the multiple tasks of preparing all standards for research reactors. To implement this enlarged responsibility, several subcommittee working groups were established to develop standards for consideration, and complementary action by Subcommittee ANS-15. ANS-15.10 is one of these groups.

In March 1979, Working Group ANS-15.10 was assigned the task of developing a draft standard for decommissioning of research reactors. Since that time changes in regulatory policy were incorporated into this current revision.

Present decommissioning regulations for reactors are contained in Title 10, "Energy," Code of Federal Regulations, Part 50, "Licensing of Production and Utilization Facilities," which addresses primarily the financial qualifications of the applicants. The policy for licensed power reactors is contained in U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Regulatory Guide 1.86, "Termination of Operating Licenses for Nuclear Reactors," which was issued in June 1974 and is generally used as a basis for decommissioning activity. Currently, the NRC is in the process of developing more specific criteria through an enhanced participatory rulemaking process designed to establish radiological criteria for the decommissioning of NRC-licensed facilities. Section 5 in general and Table 5.2 in particular are presented as the best available criteria that are reasonable and acceptable, but subject to change as further focused analysis is completed. This standard provides needed procedures, criteria, and standardization for the decommissioning of research reactors; the standard which is also appropriate for test reactors.

As a caution, because of the current developmental activity by the NRC in this area, it should be recognized that some of the procedures and criteria stated in this standard are not based on existing regulations, and that as regulations are developed and approved, such procedures and criteria may be subject to change.

In preparing this standard, the intent has been to specify objectives that will:

- (a) Assist in implementing regulatory requirements.
- (b) Be a significant aid in planning and executing decommissioning activities.

The family of American National Standards developed by ANS-15 for research reactors includes the following:

- ANSI/ANS-15.1-1990, American National Standard for the Development of Technical Specifications for Research Reactors
- ANSI/ANS-15.2-1990, American National Standard for Quality Control for Plate-Type Uranium-Aluminum Fuel Elements
- ANSI/ANS-15.4-1988, American National Standard for Selection and Training of Personnel for Research Reactors
- ANSI/ANS-15.7-1977 (R1986), American National Standard for Research Reactor Site Evaluation
- ANSI/ANS-15.8-1976 (R1986), American National Standard for Quality Assurance Program Requirements for Research Reactors
- ANSI/ANS-15.11-1993, American National Standard for Radiation Protection at Research Reactor Facilities
- ANSI/ANS-15.15-1978 (R1986), American National Standard Criteria for the Reactor Safety Systems of Research Reactors
- ANSI/ANS-15.16 (R1988), American National Standard for Emergency Planning for Research Reactors
- ANSI/ANS-15.17 (R1987), American National Standard Fire Protection Program Criteria for Research Reactors
- ANSI/ANS-15.19-1991, American National Standard for Shipment and Receipt of Special Nuclear Material (SNM) by Research Reactor Facilities

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Decommissioning of Research Reactors

1. Scope

This standard provides requirements and criteria for the decommissioning of research reactors and includes decommissioning alternatives, planning, radiation criteria, surveillance and maintenance, environmental impacts, quality assurance, and reports and documentation.

2. Definitions

as low as is reasonably achievable (ALARA). To make every reasonable effort to maintain exposures to radiation as far below the dose limits as is practical, consistent with the purpose for which the permitted or licensed activity is undertaken, taking into account the state of technology, the economics of improvements in relation to the benefits to the public health and safety, and other societal and socioeconomic considerations, and in relation to the utilization of nuclear energy and permitted or licensed materials in the public interest.

decommissioning. The measures taken at the end of the reactor facility's life to remove radioactive material to acceptable levels so as to terminate the license or operating authorization. For the scope of this standard, only the special nuclear, source, and byproduct materials are covered. All other hazardous substances should be handled in accordance with standard industry procedures, guidelines, or requirements.

non-power reactor (NPR). See research reactor.

research reactor. A device designed to support a self-sustaining neutron chain reaction for research, developmental, educational, training, or experimental purposes, and that can have provision for production of radioisotopes.

NOTE: For the purposes of this standard, test and non-power reactors fall within this definition.

research reactor facility. All areas within which the owner or operator directs authorized activities associated with the reactor.

shall, should, and may. The word "shall" is used to denote a requirement; the word "should" to denote a recommendation; and the word "may" to denote permission, neither a requirement nor a recommendation.

test reactor. See research reactor.

unrestricted use. The use of a facility, material, equipment, or waste when the radioactive content on surfaces of or inherent within any portion of it is sufficiently low to pose no unacceptable health hazard to any individual or group of individuals regardless of any future use or location of the facility, material, equipment, or waste.¹

3. Decommissioning Alternatives

The ultimate abandonment of a reactor facility upon completion of operations will require either (1) the retention of certain radioactive materials *in situ*, or (2) the removal of radioactive materials to acceptable levels from the facility to an approved disposal site. Retention of materials *in situ* will require continuation of a license or charter and does not complete a decommissioning alternative. Three major recognized decommissioning alternatives leading to the ultimate disposition are interim mothballing, in-place entombment, and removal of radioactive components and dismantling;² see *Decommissioning Handbook* [1].³ The acronyms SAFSTOR, ENTOMB, and DECON are

¹Unrestricted use addresses only health hazards and not potential industrial uses which might be impacted by low radioactivity, e.g., sensitive radiation detectors.

² See Regulatory Guide 1.86, "Termination of Operating Licenses for Nuclear Reactors" (June 1974). Regulatory guides are available from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555.

³ Numbers in brackets refer to corresponding numbers in Section 10, References.