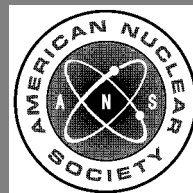


American Nuclear Society

**emergency planning
for research reactors**

an American National Standard



**published by the
American Nuclear Society
555 North Kensington Avenue
La Grange Park, Illinois 60526 USA**

ANSI/ANS-15.16-2008

**American National Standard
Emergency Planning
for Research Reactors**

Secretariat
American Nuclear Society

Prepared by the
**American Nuclear Society
Standards Committee
Working Group ANS-15.16**

Published by the
**American Nuclear Society
555 North Kensington Avenue
La Grange Park, Illinois 60526 USA**

Approved September 23, 2008
by the
American National Standards Institute, Inc.

American National Standard

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Printed in the United States of America

Foreword

(This Foreword is not a part of the American National Standard "Emergency Planning for Research Reactors," ANSI/ANS-15.16-2008.)

The American Nuclear Society (ANS) established Subcommittee ANS-15, Operation of Research Reactors, in the fall of 1970 for the purpose of preparing a standard for the operation of research reactors. In January 1972, this charter was expanded to include the multiple tasks of preparing all standards for research reactors. To implement this enlarged responsibility, a number of subcommittee working groups were established to develop standards for consideration and complementary action by Subcommittee ANS-15. ANS-15.16 is one of these groups.

In August 1980, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) published new rules for *Code of Federal Regulations*, Title 10, "Energy," Part 50, "Licensing of Production and Utilization Facilities," Appendix E, "Emergency Planning and Preparedness for Production and Utilization Facilities." The changes to the regulations place emphasis on emergency preparedness in regard to notifying off-site authorities and initiating protective actions on the basis of severity of facility damage and potential as well as actual radiological releases that are occurring or have occurred. The regulations also require the identification of a spectrum of radiological emergencies applicable to a reactor facility and the grouping of these emergencies into specified classes of emergencies. They also require that a facility's emergency plan identify emergency action levels that are to be used to initiate the planned emergency responses for each emergency. In addition, the regulations require the determination of the need for establishing an off-site emergency planning zone (EPZ) on a case-by-case basis and require the identification of predetermined actions for protecting individuals within this zone.

In January of 1994, *Code of Federal Regulations*, Title 10, "Energy," Part 20, "Standards for Protection Against Radiation" (10 CFR 20), was extensively revised to use SI units and terminology. The NRC issued supportive guidance in the form of Appendix 1 to NUREG-0849 in April 1997. NRC Information Notice 97-34, issued in June 1997, informed licensees of revised guidance. As a result of the changes to 10 CFR 20, the working group was tasked to revise American National Standards Institute (ANSI)/ANS-15.16-1982 (R2000) to be consistent. The present revision incorporates the use of SI units; the regulatory positions from NRC Regulatory Guide 2.6, Revision 1, March 1983 relative to the content, approval, and revision control of emergency procedures; and recognition of physical security of the reactor facility issues for emergency planning.

ANSI/ANS-15.16-2008 identifies the elements of an emergency plan. It provides criteria and guidance that should be considered in formulating an emergency plan. The standard identifies the emergency classes that should be used to categorize the spectrum of radiological emergencies and provides guidance for establishing the emergency classification system. It provides examples of typical emergency action levels associated with each emergency and guidance for establishing an EPZ.

The applicability of the emergency plan elements presented in this standard will vary from one research reactor facility to another depending upon the reactor power level and the potential radiological consequences that result from postulated events. The risk from credible radiological emergency situations at many research reactor facilities is usually minimal and may not require the application of all the emergency plan elements in this standard or the establishment of an EPZ.

This standard might reference documents and other standards that have been superseded or withdrawn at the time the standard is applied. A statement has been included in the reference section that provides guidance on the use of references.

This revision was led by M. L. Gildner (Oak Ridge National Laboratory) with the support of Subcommittee ANS-15, Operation of Research Reactors, of the American Nuclear Society Standards Committee, which had the following membership at the time of its approval of this standard:

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Emergency Planning for Research Reactors

1 Scope

This standard identifies the elements of an emergency plan that describes the approach to coping with emergencies and minimizing the consequences of accidents at research reactor facilities. The emphasis given each of these elements shall be commensurate with the potential risk involved.

2 Definitions

emergency: An emergency is a condition that calls for immediate action, beyond the scope of normal operating procedures, to avoid an accident or to mitigate the consequences of one.

emergency action levels: Specific instrument readings, or observations; radiological dose or dose rates; or specific contamination levels of airborne, waterborne, or surface-deposited radioactive materials that may be used as recognized conditions that result in actions such as (a) establishing emergency classes and (b) initiating appropriate emergency measures.

emergency classes: Emergency classes are classes of accidents grouped by severity level for which predetermined emergency measures should be taken or considered.

emergency plan: An emergency plan is a document that provides the basis for actions to cope with an emergency. It outlines the objectives to be met by the emergency procedures and defines the authority and responsibilities to achieve such objectives.

emergency planning zone (EPZ): Area for which off-site emergency planning is performed to assure that prompt and effective actions can be taken to protect the public in the event of an accident. The EPZ size is dependent on reactor power level and the distance beyond the site boundary at which the protective action guides could be exceeded.

emergency procedures: Emergency procedures are documented instructions that detail

the implementation actions and methods required to achieve the objectives of the emergency plan.

off-site: The geographical area that is beyond the site boundary.

on-site: The geographical area that is within the site boundary.

operations boundary: The area within the site boundary such as the reactor building (or the nearest physical personnel barrier in cases where the reactor building is not a principal physical personnel barrier) where the reactor chief administrator has direct authority over all activities. The area within this boundary shall have prearranged evacuation procedures known to personnel frequenting the area.

protective action guides: Projected radiological dose or dose commitment values to individuals that warrant protective action following a release of radioactive material. Protective actions would be warranted provided the reduction in individual dose expected to be achieved by carrying out the protective action is not offset by excessive risks to individual safety in taking the protective action. The projected dose does not include the dose that has occurred prior to the assessment.

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

site boundary: The site boundary is that boundary, not necessarily having restrictive barriers, surrounding the operations boundary wherein the reactor administrator may directly initiate emergency activities. The area within the site boundary may be frequented by people unacquainted with the reactor operations.

shall, should, and may: The word "shall" is used to denote a requirement; the word "should" is used to denote a recommendation; and the