

# Department of Veterans Affairs Research Reactor



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# Site History

- AEC issued Facility Operating License No. R-57 to VA in 1959
- Low-power Mark I TRIGA reactor located in the basement of the Omaha VA Medical Center
- Primarily used for research and radioisotope production related to the diagnosis and treatment of disease
- Also used to train Fort Calhoun Station power reactor operators from 1989-2001

# Site History

- The reactor was shut down in November 2001
- Fuel was removed and shipped offsite in June 2002
- Site characterizations were performed in December 2002 and May 2011

# Project Timeline

- Decommissioning Plan Approved: Jan 2015
- Dismantling Reactor: Aug 2015
- Liner, Concrete, Gunite: Sept 2015
- Surveys: Nov-Dec 2015
- Final Status Survey Report / Request for License Termination: Feb 2016







# NRC Actions

- Initial NRC Inspection – Sept 2015
- ORAU Confirmatory Surveys – Dec 2015
- Final Status Survey Report Reviews – May-June 2016
- License Termination – July 22, 2016

# Lack of Planning

- No plan for personnel after shutdown
  - Lack of technical experience
  - No knowledge of NRC licensing
- No as-built drawings



# Allegation

- Concerns were not addressed proactively
  - No internal meeting for hospital staff to discuss activities and schedule
  - No information was shared with staff in neighboring office spaces
- Letters sent to Congressmen, local newspaper before rad work even began







# Lessons Learned

- Plan for personnel after shutdown
- Be proactive—identify stakeholders and communicate with groups who may be affected (e.g., neighboring work spaces)







