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NRC TERMINATES LICENSE FOR DECOMMISSIONED REACTOR
AT BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has terminated Brigham Young University's (BYU) license for a closed research reactor on its campus in Provo, Utah, and released the site for unrestricted use.

BYU asked the NRC in 1990 for permission to dismantle the reactor and dispose of its component parts. It subsequently sought authorization to terminate the license once decommissioning had been completed.

On August 1, 1991, the NRC published a Federal Register notice announcing that it was considering issuing orders to permit the dismantlement and to terminate the license. The notice offered an opportunity for affected members of the public to request a hearing, but no requests were received. In July 1992, NRC authorized the university to implement the decommissioning plan and proceed with dismantlement and component disposal.

BYU has now completely dismantled the reactor facility and shipped the nuclear fuel to a Department of Energy facility. It conducted a final radiation survey to demonstrate that residual radioactive contamination at the facility has been cleaned up to meet NRC criteria.

An NRC contractor conducted an independent survey of the facility in April. The measurements verified that the facility has complied with NRC guidelines for license termination and release for unrestricted use.

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