

The Agency

Rhode Island Atomic Energy Commission

Agency Operations

The Rhode Island Nuclear Science Center (RINSC) is used for medical, biological, environmental, and materials research, education and commercial activities. The staff runs the Radiation Safety Program for the University of Rhode Island. The Director serves on the State Radiation Advisory Commission and has taken over responsibility for low-level radioactive waste disposal activities.

The center's state-of-the-art analytic laboratories and equipment are currently being used for several environmental monitoring programs sponsored by the Department of Environmental Management, the Narragansett Bay Commission and other agencies. Several years ago, the facility completed a multi-year, \$3 million dollar reactor upgrade program financed through Department of Energy Grants. In 1993, the reactor was converted to a new low enriched uranium fuel system that has greatly reduced security requirements and associated costs while providing a significant improvement in performance. Subsequent grants have resulted in the addition of required mechanical and electronic equipment necessary to substantially increase reactor capability. These improvements will permit the RINSC to compete successfully for production of medical isotopes and will provide the necessary neutron flux to conduct Neutron Capture Therapy that is a promising new method of curing brain cancer and skin cancer. Engineering, design and fabrication work is currently in progress for the construction of a cancer treatment facility and researchers at Brown University, and the RINSC has received a grant to develop new compounds for use at this facility. This multi-year grant supports a collaborative effort with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) to develop a successful treatment for one of the most deadly forms of brain cancer.

A laboratory for the development of new radio-pharmaceuticals has been completed by R.I. Consultants. This company recently developed a new method of utilizing radio-isotopes to prevent clogging of the arteries after angioplasty and they are currently developing new products for several research groups. BioPAL Incorporated is making extensive use of the reactor to conduct analysis of medical samples for a variety of treatment and research purposes. They have developed a new method of using medical isotopes that eliminate the dose to patients during diagnostic treatments. SubChem Systems Inc. has just completed a new laboratory building on the South Lab Wing for the development of underwater sensors for weapons of mass destruction. RINSC is located at the University of Rhode Island, Bay Campus, in Narragansett. The center contains a state-of-the-art nuclear counting system, laboratories, a mass spectrometer, a class-100 clean room and facilities for handling and storage of radioactive material. The Rhode Island Nuclear Science Center has operated on a daily basis without incident since 1962.

Agency Objectives

To operate and maintain the facilities at the RINSC, to support projects in all areas and to actively seek commercial projects, and to provide assistance to other state agencies in their radiation and emergency response programs.

Statutory History

R.I.G.L. 42-27 establishes the commission for matters relating to nuclear power.

The Budget

Rhode Island Atomic Energy Commission

| | FY 2007 Actual | FY 2008 Actual | FY 2009 Enacted | FY 2009 Revised | FY 2010 Recommended |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Expenditures By Object | | | | | |
| Personnel | 906,525 | 974,323 | 986,384 | 947,033 | 941,197 |
| Operating Supplies and Expenses | 161,588 | 417,259 | 491,516 | 181,799 | 143,918 |
| Aid To Local Units Of Government | - | - | - | - | - |
| Assistance, Grants and Benefits | - | - | - | - | - |
| Subtotal: Operating Expenditures | \$1,068,113 | \$1,391,582 | \$1,477,900 | \$1,128,832 | \$1,085,115 |
| Capital Purchases and Equipment | 19,373 | 82,979 | 55,000 | 55,000 | 55,000 |
| Debt Service | - | - | - | - | - |
| Operating Transfers | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total Expenditures | \$1,087,486 | \$1,474,561 | \$1,532,900 | \$1,183,832 | \$1,140,115 |
| Expenditures By Funds | | | | | |
| General Revenue | 827,654 | 834,101 | 824,470 | 786,847 | 775,346 |
| Federal Funds | 101,942 | 352,771 | 407,277 | 103,116 | 30,000 |
| Other Funds | 157,890 | 287,689 | 301,153 | 293,869 | 334,769 |
| Total Expenditures | \$1,087,486 | \$1,474,561 | \$1,532,900 | \$1,183,832 | \$1,140,115 |
| FTE Authorization | 8.6 | 8.6 | 8.6 | 8.6 | 8.6 |
| Agency Measures | | | | | |
| Minorities as a Percentage of the Workforce | - | - | - | - | - |
| Females as a Percentage of the Workforce | 33.3% | 33.3% | 33.3% | 33.3% | 44.4% |
| Persons with Disabilities as a Percentage of the Workforce | 11.0% | 11.0% | 11.0% | 11.0% | 11.0% |
| Program Measures | | | | | |
| Actual Operational Hours Spent as a Percentage of Operational Hour Goal of 1,820 | 25.0% | 16.0% | 32.0% | 32.0% | 40.0% |
| Actual Irradiations Provided as a Percentage of Irradiation Goal of 20,000 Sample Hours | 49.8% | 31.0% | 35.0% | 35.0% | 40.0% |