

1. Objectives

The primary objective of the McMaster Nuclear Reactor (MNR) Public Information Program and Disclosure Protocol (PIP&DP) is to effectively communicate the information related to the health, safety, and security of people and the environment, and issues pertinent to the lifecycle of the facility that are related to the operation of the MNR research reactor at McMaster University. It is intended to address MNR's target audience's information and interests. It also serves to explain and reinforce Canada's international obligations with respect to the peaceful use of nuclear energy in the capacity that it is used at the MNR facility.

The secondary objective is to promote education with respect to the MNR research reactor within McMaster University and the surrounding community.

The disclosure of information is intended to inform the public about and alleviate any concerns with regard to the processes being undertaken at the MNR research reactor. It is important that the public understands that there is naturally occurring radioactivity in their everyday lives and that the safe operation of the MNR research reactor does not present any danger radiologically or otherwise.

2. Target Audiences

The intent of the PIP&DP is to provide information of interest to the target audience(s). The disclosures made under the PIP&DP relate to the licensed activities performed at the MNR research reactor. The main target audiences identified are:

- MNR staff and authorized users in the reactor and the Nuclear Research Building
- Customers who utilize reactor services or products manufactured at MNR
- Students, faculty, and staff located at McMaster University
- Hamilton Fire Department personnel
- Hamilton Police Department personnel
- Members of the Nuclear Facilities Control Committee and the Health Physics Advisory Committee
- Neighbours in the areas surrounding campus
- The general public

3. Public and Media Opinion

On a regular basis, interested members of the public tour MNR facilities. On occasion, the media have been invited to MNR. Individualised tours for members of the public and university staff are carried out upon request. Part of the purpose of these tours is to create a positive opinion of the MNR research reactor amongst the various target audiences.

4. Public Information Strategy

Dissemination of information regarding the MNR research reactor includes information regarding both routine operations and information regarding planned and unplanned events. The purpose of

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the PIP&DP is to disclose information in a transparent and consistent manner in order to promote nuclear education and radiation safety. The event reporting is guided by and in accordance with CNSC REGDOC-3.1.2. "Reporting Requirements for Non-Power Reactor Class I Nuclear Facilities and Uranium Mines and Mills".

MNR publishes information quickly for the benefit of the public. Information is released as soon as MNR staff can complete initial investigation steps to be sure that the information released is as accurate as possible. This means that information is published As Soon as Is Reasonably possible (ASAR).

5. Public Disclosure Protocol

The purpose of the PIP&DP is to inform the public about the effects of the operation of the MNR research reactor may have on the health and safety of the public and the environment by:

- Communicating significant operation developments such as changes to facility design or operation and research findings
- Communicating ASAR, unplanned events exceeding regulatory limits, causing offsite effects, or which could result in public or media interest or concern
- Maintaining two-way communication for the public to interact with MNR
- Consulting with the public to confirm types of information of public interest

Table 1 lists the various types of information that are to be communicated. The information specified is disclosed according to the timeframe outlined in the table. The table also indicates the medium for disclosure that will be used.

Table 1: Public Disclosure Protocol Information Types

Type of Information	Targeted Disclosure Timeframe	Potential Disclosure Medium/Media
Annual Compliance Report (ACR) – focused summary.	<4 weeks after submission to the CNSC.	Website
Routine releases within regulatory limits or radiological materials to the environment.	Annually, as part of the ACR.	Website
Environmental monitoring reports.	Annually, as part of the ACR.	Website
Notification of CNSC inspection activities.	<2 weeks after the event	Website
Summary of licencing application requests.	<2 weeks after submission to CNSC.	Website
Significant operational developments such as labour disputes and changes in facility design.	ASAR, <1 week after development is confirmed.	Website
Events with offsite effects – events that could result in public interest or media attention.	ASAR, <1 week after event is confirmed.	Website Social Media Newspaper

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Type of Information	Targeted Disclosure Timeframe	Potential Disclosure Medium/Media
Notification of planned and unplanned significant interruptions of facility operations causing a significant disruption to supply of isotopes.	ASAR, <1 week after delay is confirmed.	Website Email Lists
Impact of natural events such as: Earthquakes Floods Lightning.	ASAR, <2 Business Days after the event, when there is an impact to safety or protection.	Website Social Media Newspaper
Notification of on-site drills where persons are evacuated from the facility, excluding fire drills conducted by the university.	ASAR, >1 day before the start of the on-site drill.	Website Social Media
Notification of a fire within or impacting the licensed facility, including a description of impact on safety and protection.	ASAR, <2 Business Days after the event.	Website Social Media Newspaper
Notification of a serious industrial accident.	ASAR, <1 week following the event.	Website
Listing of unplanned events exceeding regulatory limits or action levels and description of the impact on safety and protection.	ASAR, <2 Business Days after the event.	Website
Notification of transport incidents reportable under the CNSC Packaging & Transport of Nuclear Substances Regulations and description of the impact on safety and protection.	ASAR, <1 week after the event.	Website
New revisions to this Public Disclosure Protocol.	ASAR, <2 weeks after the new version is released.	Website

MNR utilizes multiple tools for communication with the target audience in order to execute this protocol. The majority of information is published on the MNR website. Where additional communication is necessary, information may be published using (but not limited to):

- Social media technology operated by the university Public Relations department
- Neighbourhood Update e-newsletter operated by the university Public Relations department
- Local area newspapers- typically the Hamilton Spectator and the McMaster Silhouette
- Local area radio stations- typically CHML AM 900
- Local area television stations- typically CHCH channel 11
- LCD information screens located throughout campus and in student residence buildings
- Email mailing lists

Guidance for public disclosure is based on MNR experience as well as input gained from target audiences through various communications including email, phone calls, tour and open house feedback, etc.

MNR shall ensure that the CNSC is advised of non-routine disclosures made to the target audiences at the time or prior to such disclosure. Communications of a routine nature are not necessary to be reported to the CNSC.

Documentation and records concerning disclosure are kept and available for compliance verification by the CNSC. MNR's PIP&DP is in compliance with the CNSC REGDOC-3.2.1 "Public Information and Disclosure".

6. Program Evaluation and Improvement Process

Evaluation of the PIP&DP program shall be done on a continuing basis. Input from target audiences, regulators, and any potential nonconformances will be considered. Updates will be made as necessary, and the PIP&DP will undergo improvements as they are identified.