1. Purpose. To implement the standard instructions contained in reference (a) for organizing engineering and reactor departments of naval nuclear-powered ships. This instruction is being reissued with a new date, updated version and signature authority to meet Chief of Naval Operations’ (CNO) age requirement for Office of the Chief of Naval Operations instructions, and to remove information no longer applicable.

2. Cancellation. OPNAVINST 9210.2B.

3. Policy

   a. Engineering departments of naval nuclear-powered ships must be organized per reference (a). For ships authorized by the Chief of Naval Personnel to have both engineering and reactor departments, the reactor department must be organized per reference (a), with the reactor officer responsible for the areas specified in reference (b).

   b. The operation of naval nuclear-powered ships involves not only the safety of the ships and their crews, but also the health and safety of the general public in surrounding areas. Reference (a) gives commanding officers of naval nuclear-powered ships the authority and direction necessary to carry out their responsibilities in this area, per reference (c). Nuclear-trained crewmembers of a naval nuclear-powered ship are assigned to that ship for the primary purpose of safely operating and
maintaining the nuclear propulsion plant per applicable manuals and instructions. No other assignments or duties are to take precedence over or interfere with this primary purpose.

c. Reference (a) provides regulations covering foreseeable operational situations. If situations arise that are not addressed in reference (a), commanding officers must use their training and experience when determining the proper course of action to follow. Such judgments must be conservative in nature; the commanding officer must take additional precautions as deemed necessary to provide adequate protection to the crew, the plant, the environment, and the public.

d. Nothing in reference (a) should be construed as superseding, modifying, or constituting authority to make changes to U.S. Navy Regulations, the ship’s reactor plant manual, or other applicable manuals and instructions that govern the construction, testing, operation, and maintenance of naval nuclear propulsion plants.

e. The provisions of reference (a) are designed to give commanding officers assistance and guidance based on the experience gained through many years of operating naval nuclear-powered ships. In implementing reference (a), no changes must be made to the provisions of the manual. If changes to the provisions of reference (a) are determined to be warranted, official correspondence should be submitted identifying the change and reason. Recommended changes to reference (a) should be submitted to the CNO, Director, Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program (CNO N00N) via the applicable type commander.

f. Type commanders may issue engineering department organization manuals or reactor department organizational manuals, based on reference (a), for nuclear-powered ships under their cognizance. These standard manuals and any subsequent changes thereto must be provided to CNO N00N for review before being issued.

g. Ships requiring deviations from reference (a) should submit requests to CNO N00N for approval. Proposed deviations from reference (a) should be submitted via the applicable type commander.
4. **Action.** The provisions of reference (a) must be put into effect as part of the organization of naval nuclear-powered ships. No changes must be made to the provisions of reference (a) without the specific approval of CNO N00N.

5. **Records Management.** Records created as a result of this instruction, regardless of media or format, must be managed per Secretary of the Navy Manual 5210.1 of January 2012.

[Signature]

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Director,
Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program

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