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COMMISSIONER MERRIFIELD TAKES OATH OF OFFICE;  
DICUS SWEARING-IN SET FOR NEXT WEEK

Jeffrey S. Merrifield was sworn in as a Commissioner of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission today by Chairman Shirley Ann Jackson in a ceremony at the NRC. Greta Joy Dicus will be sworn in for a second term in Hot Springs, Ark., early next week by Arkansas state Judge Vicki Cook.

The additions bring the NRC to its full complement of five Commissioners for the first time since June of last year. The other members of the Commission are Nils J. Diaz and Edward McGaffigan Jr.

Commissioner Dicus served initially from Feb. 15, 1996, until June 30 of this year, when her first term expired. She was renominated by President Clinton in May, but the nomination wasn't acted on by the full Senate until the final day before it recessed, on Wednesday, when it approved a large number of nominees. Her new term runs until June 30, 2003.

Commissioner Merrifield, whose nomination was also approved Wednesday, is filling a vacancy which runs until June 30, 2002.

Before joining the NRC, Ms. Dicus had extensive experience as a health physicist, research scientist, medical school instructor, radiation health director and corporate board member.

From 1980 to 1995, she worked in progressively more responsible positions in the Division of Radiation Control and Emergency Management at the Arkansas Department of Health. She was Chief of Licensing from 1982 to 1984 and was Director of the Division for nine years thereafter.

Concurrently, from 1991 to 1993, she served as Chairman of the Central Interstate Low-level Radioactive Waste Commission. For 16 years, from 1961 to 1977, Ms. Dicus conducted research in radiation health effects at Harvard Medical School, Rice University, the University of Texas, and Southwestern Medical School.

An Arkansas native, Ms. Dicus graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in biological sciences from Texas Woman's University in 1961 and earned a Master's degree in radiation biology from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in 1967.

Before joining the NRC, Mr. Merrifield had served since 1995 as Counsel and Staff Director to the Senate Subcommittee on Superfund, Waste Control and Risk Assessment. From 1992 to 1995, he was an associate with the Washington, D.C., law firm of McKenna & Cuneo. From 1990 to 1992, he served as a legislative assistant to Sen. Robert C. Smith (R-N.H.), and from 1987 to 1990 as a legislative assistant to then-Sen. Gordon J. Humphrey (R-N.H.).

A native of Antrim, N.H., Mr. Merrifield received his Bachelor of Arts degree, magna cum laude, in political science and history from Tufts University in 1985 and his Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from Georgetown University Law Center in 1992.

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