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NRC EMPLOYEES RECEIVE PRESIDENTIAL RANK AWARDS

Presidential Rank awards were presented to three Nuclear Regulatory Commission employees this week at a ceremony chaired by Vice President Al Gore. The honorees - Janice E. Moore, Brian W. Sheron, and Jack R. Strosnider, Jr., - were among more than 200 members of the Senior Executive Service throughout the federal government who were recognized for demonstrating exceptional performance and outstanding leadership.

Janice Moore, Deputy Assistant General Counsel for Advanced Reactors and Special Proceedings in the Office of the General Counsel, is a 20-year veteran of the agency. She received the award for her expert legal advice and counsel to the Commission as well as her exceptional legal skills in areas such as streamlining the licensing process for nuclear power plants and encouraging standardization of reactor design. She also managed litigation of the first application for a private uranium enrichment facility, launching consideration of environmental justice as an issue. Ms. Moore participated in a settlement of the Comanche Peak operating license proceeding, which saved years of protracted litigation while providing an innovative solution to allow the citizens' group that had challenged the plant an avenue to ensure its concerns were addressed. She is respected both within the agency and by the nuclear industry for her ability to grasp complex legal problems and offer innovative solutions.

Brian Sheron, Director of the Division of Engineering in the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, oversees many complex technical, safety, and policy issues regarding nuclear reactors. His career spans 25 years in the federal government, marked by numerous outstanding achievements. During his 20 years at the NRC, Dr. Sheron has worked in both nuclear regulation and nuclear safety research, making major contributions in resolving technical issues such as boiling water reactor internal equipment cracking, steam generator tube degradation, reactor pressure integrity, and seismic qualification. He was the principal architect for critical initiatives such as the revised emergency core cooling system rule, and has encouraged the agency's focus on managing prevention of severe reactor accidents. Dr. Sheron has had 23 papers published in industry journals and has made many presentations at nuclear industry conferences.

Jack Strosnider, Jr., Chief of the Materials and Chemical Engineering Branch in the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, is a 20-year veteran of the NRC, and served two years on assignment at the Nuclear Energy Agency in Paris. Mr. Strosnider pioneered the application of probabilistic fracture methods in the analysis of reactor vessel integrity. His work formed the basis for the pressurized thermal shock rule which resulted in significantly improved nuclear power plant safety. He also managed programs evaluating aging of reactor pressure vessels, steam generator tube degradation, and corrosion and cracking of reactor piping. His numerous recommendations resulted in reducing the risk of steam generator tube failure. Mr. Strosnider's work on reactor pressure vessels also contributed to significant reductions in U.S. electrical generation costs. Technical evaluations and regulatory positions developed in his group have withstood significant scrutiny by licensees, congressional staff and the public.

Each award winner received a $10,000 bonus.

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