



U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

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Chairman Nils J Diaz, Ph.D.



On April 1, 2003, President George W. Bush designated Dr. Nils J. Diaz as Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Dr. Diaz was renominated for a second five-year term at the NRC by the President on July 25, 2001 and confirmed by the Senate on September 26, 2001. He assumed the duties and responsibilities of the position on October 4, 2001. As a member of the Commission, Dr. Diaz participates in the exercise and direction of the Commission's licensing and regulatory functions. His duties include policy formulation and rulemaking, as well as issuing regulations, related orders, and guidance for protection of the public health and safety, the common defense and security, and the environment.

Commissioner Diaz' specific responsibilities include licensing the construction and operation of nuclear plants and other nuclear facilities, such as nuclear fuel cycle facilities and test and research reactors, and renewal of operating licenses for these facilities, as well as oversight of their decommissioning. Commissioner Diaz is also responsible for licensing and regulations for the possession and use of source, special and by-product nuclear materials, and is charged with special licensing responsibility for the construction, operation, and closure of the geologic repository for high-level radioactive wastes. During his tenure, Commissioner Diaz has been a strong advocate for streamlining the nuclear regulatory framework with a strong focus on safety.

Prior to his appointment, Dr. Diaz was Professor of Nuclear Engineering Sciences at the University of Florida, Director of the Innovative Nuclear Space Power Institute (INSPI) - a national consortium of industries, universities and national laboratories - and President and Principal Engineer of Florida Nuclear Associates, Inc.

Dr. Diaz' career includes 11 years as Director of INSPI for the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization/Department of Defense, two years in California as Associate Dean for Research at the California State University Long Beach, one year in Spain as Principal Advisor to Spain's Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and six years at nuclear utilities and vendors. From 1971 to 1996, Dr. Diaz consulted on nuclear engineering and energetics to private industry, the U. S. Government and several foreign governments.

Dr. Diaz holds a B. S. Degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Villanova, Havana, a M. S. in Nuclear Engineering and a Ph.D. in Nuclear Engineering Sciences from the University of Florida. He has received formal training and practice in Nuclear Medicine and Health Physics and was licensed as a Senior Reactor Operator for 12 years by the NRC. He has published more than 70 refereed papers on reactor kinetics and safety, instrumentation and control, imaging and non-destructive examination, advanced reactor concepts, nuclear space power and propulsion, and nuclear fuels. He is a Fellow of the American Nuclear Society, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The Commission:	
Chairman	Nils J. Diaz, Ph.D.
Commissioner	Edward McGaffigan, Jr.
Commissioner	Jeffrey S. Menfield
Vacant	
Vacant	

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