



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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No. 07-145

November 1, 2007

NRC EXECUTIVES HONORED WITH PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS

President George W. Bush has selected 11 senior managers at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the prestigious Presidential Meritorious Executive Rank Awards for 2007.

The Presidential Awards are granted for "sustained extraordinary accomplishment," focusing on leadership to produce results. Fewer than 5 percent of the career Senior Executive Service members receive this Award. The winners are selected through nomination by their agencies, evaluation by boards of private citizens, and approval by the President.

R. William Borchardt, Roy J. Caniano, Geoffrey E. Grant, Brian E. Holian, Pao-Tsin Kuo; James E. Lyons, Bruce S. Mallett, David B. Matthews, Victor M. McCree, William H. Ruland and Annette L. Vietti-Cook were selected to receive Meritorious Awards. The NRC will recognize these individuals at its annual awards ceremony next spring. Highlights of their valuable contributions to the agency follow.



R. William Borchardt, director of the recently established Office of New Reactors, has consistently demonstrated clear commitment to the agency's mission as evidenced by his thoughtful and effective planning for success and his proactive response to emerging issues and changing regulatory environments. He continues leading agency efforts for ramping up to meet the needs of a reinvigorated nuclear program through the new office that is effective, streamlined and people-oriented.



Roy Caniano, deputy director of the Division of Reactor Safety, Region IV (Arlington, Texas), has demonstrated exceptional leadership throughout his 25-year career in the NRC with significant contributions toward improving safety and public confidence at a number of U.S. materials and reactor facilities. He has focused his significant technical expertise and vision to help set future directions for the agency's regulatory program.



Geoffrey Grant, former deputy regional administrator, Region III (Lisle, Ill.), demonstrated superb leadership in developing creative responses and implementing improvements over a 21-year career in the NRC. He led over 200 executives, managers and staff in the effective implementation of the nuclear reactors and nuclear materials safety programs for the Midwestern United States while successfully managing all aspects of organizational and office operations.



Brian Holian, director of the Division of Nuclear Materials Safety, Region I (King of Prussia, Pa.), has made noteworthy contributions to nuclear safety and has been exceptionally successful in making policy and improving programs and organizational performance throughout his 17-year career with the NRC. He has shown keen management insight, and exemplary skills in working with a wide range of stakeholders, including crafting a unique agency response and public outreach effort for a high-profile nuclear plant.



Pao-Tsin Kuo, director of the Division of License Renewal, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, has used his significant engineering expertise and vision during his 32 years at NRC to ensure the safety of operating nuclear power plants across the country. He was instrumental in pioneering a dynamic process for one of the agency's most successful programs – renewal of nuclear plant licenses for an additional 20 years of operation beyond the original license - thus contributing to the nation's electricity-generating capability.



James Lyons, director of the Division of Site and Environmental Review, Office of New Reactors, has made significant contributions over his 26-year career at NRC, including laying the foundation for the future licensing of new reactors to enable the safe, secure, and environmentally responsible use of nuclear power to help meet the Nation's future electricity needs. He developed and implemented a plan for early site permits, design certifications and combined license reviews, to support construction of a new reactor by 2010.



Bruce Mallett, regional administrator, Region IV (Arlington, Texas), while in numerous senior positions, has consistently demonstrated superb performance through his 27-year career in the NRC. He made important contributions as lead manager of a pilot program intended to improve and streamline NRC's nuclear materials licensing process and was deeply involved in the development of the current Reactor Oversight Program. His efforts have enhanced the transparency and consistency of the reactor inspection and assessment program.



David Matthews, director of New Reactor Licensing, Office of New Reactors, has demonstrated unparalleled technical and leadership skills, personal integrity and dedication throughout his 32 years of federal service. He has provided direction for a wide spectrum of NRC programs including plant license renewals, next-generation reactors, and environmental reviews. He has also initiated far-reaching reforms to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of NRC's oversight activities by introducing risk-informed regulatory approaches.



Victor McCree, deputy regional administrator for operations, Region II (Atlanta, Ga.), is recognized as a highly effective government executive, distinguished by his inspiring leadership and dedication to performance management and customer service. Throughout his 19-year career with the NRC, McCree has made noteworthy contributions to nuclear safety and has succeeded in improving organizational performance and programs, including timely significance determinations in the Reactor Oversight Program.



William Ruland, director of the Division of Safety Systems, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, has successfully used his superior leadership and management skills over a 25-year NRC career to develop and implement regulatory, licensing, and inspection programs for reactors and the storage of spent nuclear fuel and the domestic and international transport of radioactive material. He is widely recognized for his extensive experience and diplomacy in building coalitions among groups and promoting a common understanding of issues.



Annette Vietti-Cook, secretary of the Commission, has provided exemplary service to the five-member Commission in planning, scheduling and conducting Commission business effectively and efficiently. Dedicating 25 years to the NRC, she has demonstrated exceptional leadership to enable the Commission to set agency policy and direction. She has skillfully provided open and clear communications between the Commission and the agency's technical staff, and with members of the public interested in Commission operations.

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