

Christopher I. Grimes

Nuclear Safety Consultant

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Summary

Christopher Grimes retired from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in June 2006 after 32 years of Federal service. His career at the NRC included a broad range of positions of increasing responsibility covering most aspects of nuclear power regulation. At the time of his retirement, Mr. Grimes served as the Director of the Policy and Rulemaking Division in the NRC's Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation. In that position, he was responsible for all of the reactor-related rulemaking activities, financial assurance, regulatory analysis, generic communications, generic project management, interoffice coordination, licensing processes, and all of the licensing and inspection activities associated with research and test reactors.

Mr. Grimes' accomplishments also include completion of the NRC's Systematic Evaluation Program, completion of the licensing of the Comanche Peak nuclear power plant, implementation of the Technical Specification Improvements Program, issuance of the improved Standard Technical Specifications, development of the process for converting licenses to improved technical specifications, development and implementation of the NRC's license renewal process, and improved application of risk-informed decisions in the regulatory process. He was a qualified Incident Investigation Team Leader and Emergency Officer in the NRC's Incident Response Program, and he led the Diagnostic Evaluation Team at the Oyster Creek nuclear plant.

Education

B.S., Nuclear Engineering, Oregon State University

Qualifications

Nuclear Reactor Safety - Familiar with a broad variety of reactor designs as a reactor engineer and systems analyst. Responsible for performing containment response analysis, evaluating reactor system designs and preparing safety evaluation reports for construction permit and operating license applications. Contributed to the development of a computer code for analyzing containment subcompartment pressurization using compressible fluid flow theory. Served as the Task Manager for the Mark I containment Long Term Program to resolve pool dynamic loads in boiling water reactor designs. Served as Emergency Officer in the NRC's Incident Response Program. Qualified as an Incident Investigation Team Leader. Served as Team Leader for the Oyster Creek Diagnostic Evaluation.

Nuclear Reactor Safety Management - Appointed to the senior executive service in 1984 upon selection as the Chief of the Systematic Evaluation Program (SEP). That program evaluated ten of the oldest power reactors against current requirements and used risk insights in integrated safety assessments to develop back-fitting recommendations. Responsible for directing the safety reviews and developing proposed staff positions to resolve the safety issues. Served as Deputy Director in the Division of Engineering from 2003 to 2005. Responsible for directing engineering-related safety evaluations of licensee's implementation of NRC requirements, changes to existing license requirements, and applications for new facilities or designs. Responsible for directing the application of engineering expertise to support special inspections, projects, programs, and policy activities in the areas of mechanical, civil-structural, materials, metallurgy, chemical, instrumentation and control systems, and electrical engineering, as well as applying that engineering expertise to conduct failure analysis and structural analysis. Also represented the NRC on domestic and international codes and standards groups.

Nuclear Reactor Licensing - Served as Project Manager for various power reactor license applications, including the Combustion Engineering standard plant design. Served as the Chief of the Technical Specifications Branch from 1991 to 1997. Responsible for implementing the Technical Specifications Improvement Program, including issuance of the Improved Standard Technical Specifications (STS) for trial use in 1992. Responsible for developing the process for plant-specific conversions to the STS as well as managing changes to the STS, which established NRC positions on technical safety requirements for reactor systems, electrical systems, control room design, auxiliary systems, and reactor operating limits. Served as Director of the Comanche Peak Project Division in the NRC's Office of Special Projects. Responsible for directing the licensing of Comanche Peak, including project management, technical review and inspection activities. Responsibilities also involved planning and scheduling the project activities, resolution of construction deficiencies and assessment of operational readiness. Subsequently served as Project Director in the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation for a group of power reactors in Region IV.

Nuclear Reactor License Renewal and Environmental Impacts - Served as Director of the License Renewal and Environmental Impacts Program from 1997 to 2002. Responsible for developing and implementing the license renewal review process for power reactors based on the requirements codified in 10 CFR Part 54 in 1995. Responsible for establishing the plans and schedules for the first license renewal reviews as well as developing the review standards for the associated environmental reviews. Upon completion of the first three renewed licenses, established a five-year schedule of license renewal reviews and implemented a process to manage changes to the license renewal review guides and related staff positions.

Rulemaking and Regulatory Analysis - Appointed as Director of the Policy and Rulemaking Division in 2005. Responsible for all of the reactor-related rulemaking activities, financial assurance, regulatory analysis, generic communications, generic project management, interoffice coordination, licensing processes, and all of the licensing and inspection activities associated with research and test reactors. Responsible for transferring decommissioned power reactors to the NRC's Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards and establishing a risk management

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team to promote improved use of risk insights in regulatory decisions and requirements.

Employment

Nuclear Safety Consultant, 2007-Present

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 1975-2006

Director, Division of Policy & Rulemaking, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Deputy Director, Division of Engineering
Director, License Renewal & Environmental Impact Program
Chief, Technical Specifications Branch
Project Director IV-2
Director, Comanche Peak Project Division, Office of Special Projects
Director, Integrated Safety Assessment Program
Chief, Systematic Evaluation Program Branch
Project Manager

U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, 1973-1975

Containment Systems Engineer

Nuclear Engineering & Components, Inc., General Engineer, 1971-1973

Honors

Distinguished Senior Executive Service Award, 1999
Oregon State University, Engineering Hall of Fame 2010

Security Clearance

NRC Q Clearance (inactive)
NRC L Clearance (pending)

Publications

Authored numerous NRC documents including Safety Evaluation Reports, Environmental Impact Statements, expert affidavits in licensing hearings, staff technical positions, regulatory analyses, Commission papers, and routine correspondence with licensees, industry groups, public interest groups, and individuals. Contributed to reports on nuclear safety developed by industry standards groups and the International Atomic Energy Agency (1973-2003).