John E. Kelley

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Reactor Technologies
Office of Nuclear Energy
Department of Energy

Dr. John E. Kelly was appointed Deputy Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Reactor Technologies in the Office of Nuclear Energy in October 2010. He is responsible for the Department of Energy's nuclear reactor research and development programs for Light Water Reactors, Gas Cooled Reactors, Small Modular Reactors, and advanced reactor concepts. His office is also responsible for the advanced modeling and simulation program within DOE-NE.

Prior to joining the Department of Energy, Dr. Kelly spent 30 years at Sandia National Laboratories where he was engaged in a broad spectrum of research programs in nuclear reactor safety, advanced nuclear energy technology, and national security. In the reactor safety field, he led efforts to establish the scientific basis for assessing the risks of nuclear power plant operation and specifically those risks associated with potential accident scenarios. His research focused on core melt progression phenomena and led to an improved understanding of the Three Mile Island accident. In the advanced nuclear energy technology field, he led Sandia's efforts to develop advanced concepts for space nuclear power, Generation IV reactors, and proliferation-resistant and safe fuel cycles. These research activities explored new technologies aimed at improving the safety and affordability of nuclear power. In the national security field, he led national efforts to evaluate the safety and technical viability of tritium production technologies.

Dr. Kelly is an active member of the American Nuclear Society and has served on the Nuclear Installations Safety Division for the last 2 decades in a number of leadership positions. His committee work has focused on increasing the publication of scientific work in the nuclear safety field and in developing national positions on the safety of nuclear power.

Born in Detroit, Michigan, Dr. Kelly received his B.S. in nuclear engineering from the University of Michigan in 1976 and his Ph.D. in nuclear engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1980. Dr. Kelly is married and has three children.