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NRC Chairman Allison Macfarlane Selects Renee Simpson As Director of Office of Congressional Affairs

Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chairman Allison Macfarlane has named Renee Simpson as director of the Office of Congressional Affairs. Simpson assumed her new position March 10.

Prior to her new appointment, Simpson served in senior staff positions on the House Appropriations and Senate Intelligence Committees and held a number of related positions, including service in the Offices of Legislative Affairs for the U.S. Marine Corps and Director of National Intelligence.

“We are happy to welcome Renee to our team,” said Macfarlane. “Her extensive experience on and around Capitol Hill, and her skills in navigating the legislative process will serve the NRC well.”

Simpson’s career in the federal government began in 1981, when she was commissioned as a naval officer. She served with distinction for 24 years of active and reserve duty, retiring as a Navy Captain. Along the way, she held progressively more responsible positions in matters of national security, both in uniform and as a civil servant, including her most recent jobs in Congress conducting oversight of intelligence activities. She also served in state government as professional staff for the Legislative Budget Board, a permanent joint committee of the Texas Legislature. The board develops budget and policy recommendations for legislative appropriations, and conducts evaluations to improve efficiency and performance of state and local operations.

Simpson received a bachelor’s degree in Political Science from Wake Forest University and completed extensive graduate work in Georgetown University’s Security Studies Program. She is also a graduate of several professional education programs and fellowships, including the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School; National Defense University; and Georgetown University’s Government Affairs Institute. She was also recognized for her outstanding contribution as a fellow of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s Center for International Studies Seminar XXI Program for “Foreign Politics, International Relations and the National Interest.” Simpson is a native of North Carolina.

She replaces Rebecca L. Schmidt, who retired Jan. 31 after nine years at the NRC and 30 years of service to the federal government.