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CONTACT: Maureen Conley, 301-415-8200

NRC Advisory Committee Member Honored by National Academy of Engineering

Dana Powers, an advisor to the NRC for more than 20 years, was honored this week by the National Academy of Engineering, which elected him as a new member. Powers is serving his sixth term on the NRC's Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS). The Academy said he was elected for contributions to commercial nuclear power plant safety worldwide and to radioactive source-term processes. Election to the Academy is considered one of the highest professional distinctions in engineering.

Powers is a senior scientist in nuclear energy and fuel cycle programs at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque. His service on the ACRS began in 1994 and included a two-year term as Chairman and a two-year term as Vice-Chair. He is currently the longest-serving member of the ACRS.

A native of Ironton, Mo., Powers earned his bachelor's in chemistry, and his Ph.D. in chemistry, chemical engineering and economics from the California Institute of Technology. He began his career with Sandia in 1974 and was a consultant to President Carter's commission on the 1979 accident at Three Mile Island. In his current role he is responsible for developing safety research programs at Department of Energy nuclear facilities. He also serves on a panel advising DOE on the safety of radioactive waste stored in tanks at DOE sites.

The ACRS is an advisory group that provides independent technical review of, and advice on, matters related to the safety of existing and proposed nuclear facilities, and on the adequacy of proposed reactor safety standards. It also advises the Commission on issues in health physics and radiation protection.

The ACRS's primary focus is on safety issues associated with the U.S. operation of 99 commercial nuclear power plants, as well as regulatory initiatives including risk-informed and performance-based regulations, license renewal, power uprates, new reactor applications and the use of mixed oxide and high burnup fuels. In addition, the ACRS may be asked to provide advice on radiation protection, radioactive waste management and earth sciences in the agency's licensing reviews for fuel fabrication, enrichment and waste disposal facilities.

For more information on the ACRS go to the NRC [website](#).