



NRC NEWS

Office of Public Affairs, Headquarters

Washington, DC. 20555-0001

www.nrc.gov ■ opa.resource@nrc.gov



No: 21-017

April 26, 2021

CONTACT: [Ivonne Couret](#), 301-415-8200

NRC Appoints Vicki Bier and Gregory Halnon to Four-Year ACRS Terms

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has appointed Vicki M. Bier, Ph.D., and Gregory H. Halnon to the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards for four-year terms, effective April 12.

The ACRS, a group of highly experienced technical experts, advises the Commission, independently from the NRC staff, on safety rules and issues related to the licensing and operation of nuclear power plants, health physics and radiation protection.

In addition to their ACRS responsibilities, Bier is professor emerita in the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering and the Department of Engineering Physics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her areas of specialization include risk analysis, decision analysis, and operations research. She brings more than 40 years of experience in risk analysis for the nuclear power, chemical, petrochemical, and aerospace industries, as well as homeland security and critical-infrastructure protection.

Bier is a past president of the Decision Analysis Society, a fellow of both the Society for Risk Analysis and the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences, and the editor-in-chief of Decision Analysis. She has served on the Radiation Advisory Committee, the Homeland Security Advisory Committee of the Science Advisory Board for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and on several panels, committees, and boards for the National Research Council. She earned a bachelor's degree in mathematical sciences from Stanford University and a doctorate in operations research from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Halnon works as an independent nuclear industry consultant with more than 40 years of experience in the nuclear and utility industries. He has held positions ranging from systems engineer and operations management to executive leadership at operating and decommissioned nuclear power plants, including Chief Nuclear Officer of Three Mile Island Unit 2. His areas of expertise include all aspects of nuclear power plant operations as well as quality standards, security, maintenance and engineering processes. He currently holds professional engineering licenses in two states and has held two Senior Reactor Operator licenses. He has led numerous industry groups in both engineering and regulatory areas as well as two industry consortiums for separate small modular reactor technologies.

Halnon is a graduate of the Senior Nuclear Plant Managers course from the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations, a past nuclear academic program evaluator for the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology and is a life member of the American Nuclear Society. He earned a

bachelor's degree in engineering from the University of Central Florida with an emphasis on mechanical and thermal hydraulics.

All biographies, along with a complete list of [ACRS members](#), are available on the [NRC website](#).