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Three NRC Officials Receive 2018 Presidential Rank Awards

Three NRC officials are among 139 career public servants selected to receive the FY 2018 Presidential Rank Award. The award is one of the highest given to government employees, and recognizes and celebrates their sustained extraordinary accomplishments.

The NRC recipients are: Margaret M. Doane, previously the agency's general counsel and now its executive director for operations; Anne T. Boland, director of the Office of Enforcement; and Thomas W. Rich, a division director in the Office of the Chief Information Officer.

"These three senior officials at the NRC have distinguished themselves through consistent and exceptionally high performance in service to this agency and the American people," said NRC Chairman Kristine L. Svinicki. "I join with the entire agency as we honor them and offer our congratulations."

Doane joined the NRC in 1991 and has held increasingly important leadership roles. She served as director of the NRC's Office of International Programs and later became the agency's general counsel. In that role, she served as the chief legal officer for the agency and principal legal advisor to the Chairman and the Commission on matters of law and legal policy in support of the NRC's mission. Additionally, she worked closely with other government agencies and the White House to advise and represent the NRC in matters concerning international nuclear safety organizations, committees of Congress, foreign governments and non-governmental organizations. In 2018, she was appointed EDO, the highest career position in the NRC, and serves as the agency's chief operating officer.

Her career accomplishments include successfully defending the Continued Storage Rule, which allowed commercial nuclear power plant licensing and license renewal to resume; ensuring that the legal framework existed to support the U.S. and NRC response to the Fukushima nuclear reactor accident; and providing innovative leadership to the legal team addressing unique issues associated with small modular reactors.

Boland joined the NRC in 1985 as a radiation specialist in the NRC's Region II office in Atlanta. She held progressively more responsible positions in that office and in the agency's Region III office, in Lisle, Ill., before moving to the NRC headquarters to serve as a division director in the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation and as acting deputy office director in the Office of Regulatory Research. Currently, as the director of the Office of Enforcement, she leads an office of highly skilled scientists and engineers in developing and implementing policies and programs for enforcement, allegations, and safety culture programs.

Her career accomplishments include exceptional leadership in overseeing safety enhancements at an Ohio nuclear plant after significant reactor components were found degraded; superior leadership of agency-wide efforts to address groundwater contamination issues around power plants; and the safe resumption of certain cancer treatments at a Department of Veterans Affairs medical center after the identification of significant performance issues.

Rich began his career with the NRC in 1986 as an engineering aide in the Co-Operative Education Program. During his 31 years of service, he has held positions of increasing responsibility in a broad spectrum of technical positions. He performed licensing, inspection and rulemaking activities related to nuclear materials; and served in a number of supervisory positions, including as lead of the Materials and Waste Applications Team and as deputy director in the Information and Records Services Division. Currently, as division director of the Information Technology Services Development and Operations Division, he oversees the technology service lifecycle, from design through deployment and maintenance. He manages an annual budget of some \$70 million and oversees a technical staff of around 70.

His career accomplishments include providing exceptional leadership in developing guidance used by the NRC and Agreement States to review and approve sealed radiation sources and devices for licensing, serving on high-profile inspection teams, and providing critical leadership in improving the agency's cybersecurity posture and processes.