NRC NEWS
Office of Public Affairs, Headquarters
Washington, DC. 20555-0001
www.nrc.gov ■ opa.resource@nrc.gov

No: 19-011 March 8, 2019
CONTACT: Scott Burnell, 301-415-8200

NRC's Felix Gonzalez Honored as a 2019 NSPE Federal Engineer of the Year

Felix Gonzalez, a reliability and risk engineer at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, has been chosen by the National Society of Professional Engineers as one of the top 32 professional engineers in the federal government. Gonzalez received the honor in late February, during the NSPE's 40th annual ceremony at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.

Gonzalez is chief of the Performance and Reliability Branch in the NRC's Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research. He was recognized for exceptional leadership contributions to the agency's safety mission while in that office's Risk and External Hazards Analysis Branch. Gonzalez headed a multidisciplinary team examining the risks of moving and storing spent nuclear fuel in dry casks. This work evaluated both human performance and equipment design risks associated with dry cask storage. The project provided the basis for a risk-informed licensing approach aimed at reducing risk and prioritizing industry and NRC resources.

The NSPE, which serves more than 26,000 licensed professional engineers of all disciplines, promotes the ethical and competent practice of engineering. Federal agencies employing at least 50 engineers may nominate candidates for the Federal Engineer of the Year award. Top candidates are honored each year and the society names a single winner at the ceremony. Recent NRC honorees include Gabriel Taylor (2015) and David Stroup (2014), both with the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research.

Gonzalez earned a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez and a master's degree in reliability engineering from the University of Maryland. He holds a Professional Engineer license with the state of Maryland.