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CONTACT: [Office of Public Affairs](#), 301-415-8200

NRC Appoints New General Counsel and Research Director



Matt Pociask

ROCKVILLE, Md.—The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has announced the appointment of Matt Pociask as General Counsel effective immediately, and Michael X. Franovich as head of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Research, effective July 2026.

Pociask has been serving as Principal Deputy General Counsel in the Office of General Counsel since February 2026. David Taggart, who has been the Acting General Counsel since August 2025, will serve as Special Advisor for Strategic Coordination of Regulatory and Policy Integration. In his new capacity, Taggart will continue to focus on implementation of Executive Order 14300.

“I want to congratulate Matt as he steps into this important role. His experience and judgment will be invaluable as the agency continues its work to enable the safe deployment of nuclear technology,” Chairman Ho K. Nieh said. “I also want to thank David for his service these past seven months of transition at the NRC. His commitment to implementing Executive Order 14300 has set us up for success going forward.”

Before joining the NRC, Pociask practiced law at a litigation boutique, where he specialized in constitutional law, administrative law, and Supreme Court practice. He served as law clerk to Justice Amy Coney Barrett of the U.S. Supreme Court, Judge Gregory Katsas of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, and Judge Amul Thapar from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Pociask graduated with high honors from University of Chicago Law School. Prior to that, he was a staff sergeant in the United States Army.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has also announced the appointment of Michael X. Franovich as head of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Research. His appointment becomes effective July 2026. “Mike’s expertise in risk assessment, deep knowledge of nuclear technologies, and resident inspector experience makes him an excellent choice to lead our agency’s research efforts,” Chairman Nieh said. “His dedication to the NRC mission and his record of technical leadership will be valuable assets for the agency.”

Franovich has been serving as Deputy Office Director for Engineering in the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation since February 2025 and is a 2023 Presidential Rank Award winner for executive



Mike Franovich

meritorious service. He has held various senior leadership positions within the NRC overseeing safety systems, risk assessment, operating reactor safety, and advanced reactor licensing, and has also previously served in staff positions including resident inspector, project manager, and senior reliability and risk analyst. He received his bachelor's degree in nuclear engineering from the University of Florida and his master's degree in reliability engineering from the University of Maryland. He is a graduate of the NRC's SES Candidate Development Program.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission was created as an expert, technical agency to protect public health, safety, and security, and regulate the civilian use of nuclear materials, including enabling the deployment of nuclear power for the benefit of society. Among other responsibilities, the agency issues licenses, conducts inspections, initiates and enforces regulations, and plans for incident response. The NRC is collaborating with interagency partners to implement reforms outlined in new Executive Orders and the ADVANCE Act to streamline agency activities and enhance efficiency.