



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NINE NRC EXECUTIVES HONORED WITH PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS

President George W. Bush has selected nine senior managers at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission for either Distinguished or Meritorious Executive Rank Awards for 2008. "These recipients have consistently demonstrated their strength, integrity, and commitment to excellence as public servants for the agency and for our fellow Americans," said Chairman Dale Klein.

The Presidential Awards winners are chosen through a rigorous selection process. They are nominated by their agency heads, evaluated by boards consisting of private citizens, and approved by the President. The evaluation criteria focus on leadership and results. Less than one percent of the career Senior Executive Service corps receives the prestigious Distinguished Rank award each year, and less than five percent of the corps receives the Meritorious Rank Award.

This year's Distinguished Executive Rank Award goes to James F. McDermott, director of Human Resources. The recipients of the Meritorious Executive Rank Awards are Eliot B. Brenner, Stephen G. Burns, Nilesh C. Chokshi, Daniel H. Dorman, Frank P. Gillespie, Michael R. Johnson, Michael E. Mayfield, and Mary Lynn Scott. The agency will recognize these individuals at its annual awards ceremony in the spring. Highlights of their valuable contributions to the agency follow.



James F. McDermott, director of Human Resources and Chief Human Capital Officer has demonstrated exceptional leadership throughout his 35-year career in the NRC and has demonstrated unwavering commitment to the highest standards of public service. He is widely recognized for meeting the emerging human capital needs of the agency by employing his unique ability to envision and implement new policies and programs.



Eliot B. Brenner, director of the Office of Public Affairs, has consistently demonstrated clear commitment to the agency's mission in the critical role of communicating effectively with high-level audiences and the media about how the agency protects people and the environment. He has charted a successful course for keeping stakeholders informed and involved in NRC processes to help ensure openness and maintain public confidence in the agency. He effectively communicates Commission policies, programs, and decisions to the news media, public, and other stakeholders.



Stephen G. Burns, deputy General Counsel in the Office of the General Counsel has demonstrated superb performance during his 29-year career at the NRC advising the Commission on law and legal policy. He has also provided advice and legal representation to the agency in all activities, including representing the NRC on issues with other government agencies, with Congress and at international forums. In addition, he has played a pivotal role in integrating a myriad of technical and legal issues in key agency decisions in coordination with the Commission and Office of Executive Director for Operations.



Nilesh C. Chokshi, deputy director of the Division of Site and Environmental Reviews in the Office of New Reactors, has used his significant engineering expertise and vision for environmental and safety reviews of the proposed sites for new reactor construction. He has consistently demonstrated superb performance through his 20-year career in the NRC and has made important contributions as a leader in this newly formed office to serve the public interest by enabling the safe, secure, and environmentally responsible use of nuclear power in meeting the nation's future energy needs.



Daniel H. Dorman, as former director of the Division of Security Operations, now director of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards in the Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards, has demonstrated unparalleled technical and leadership skills providing effective oversight of security programs at the nation's 104 operating commercial nuclear power plants and several fuel facilities. He has made noteworthy contributions directing inspection programs and security force-on-force testing. He directed acquisition, installation, operation, and maintenance of secure communication systems in support of the agency's incident response, intelligence liaison, and international programs.



Frank P. Gillespie, former executive director for the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards and Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste and Materials, has demonstrated outstanding technical and leadership skills, personal integrity, and dedication throughout his 30 years at the NRC. He worked diligently to improve the performance of these two Committees that provide independent safety advice to the Commission and senior agency officials on reactor safety as well as waste and materials safety.



Michael R. Johnson, as former deputy director of the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research now director of the Office of New Reactors, has been recognized as an exemplary leader and a highly effective government executive. He has consistently demonstrated superb performance and leadership during his successful career in which he has led the development of new and innovative approaches to improve the effectiveness of the agency. With a keen ability to bring together stakeholders with differing perspectives and desires to achieve common goals, he has been instrumental in delivering "win-win" solutions resulting in a spirit of increased cooperation.



Michael E. Mayfield, director of the Division of Engineering in the Office of New Reactors, has demonstrated superb performance during his 23-year career in the NRC with significant contributions in the development of standards used in the design and operation of nuclear power reactors. He has skillfully directed a broad range of complex technical programs on engineering aspects of reactor design certifications and reactor application reviews. He has been the NRC's designated member on the International Atomic Energy Agency's Nuclear Safety Standards Committee.



Mary Lynn Scott, former director of the Division of Contracts in the Office of Administration, has made significant contributions over her 36-year career of federal service including directing and managing the NRC's contracting activities. She developed and implemented effective contracting policies and procedures, directed and coordinated contracts, acquisitions, grants, and financial assistance activities. She also provided advice and assistance to agency program officials regarding procurement regulations, requirements, and approaches to meet program objectives consistent with contracting requirements.

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