Stephen T. Bell, PE

SES

Branch Head, Advanced Reactor Design
Naval Reactors

Mr. Steve Bell holds a bachelor's of science degree in nuclear engineering from Kansas State University and a certificate in nuclear engineering from the Bettis Reactor Engineering School (whose classified curriculum the U.S. Navy recognizes as a master's-degree program). In addition, he is a licensed Professional Engineer in Virginia.

Upon graduation from Kansas State, Mr. Bell began his career at Naval Reactors (NR) in Washington DC as a newly commissioned ensign. Until March 2004 he worked in the Reactor Engineering Division, responsible for reactor design and Fleet support, including lead reactor design work for the GERALD R. FORD-class nuclear-powered aircraft carrier. In March 2004, the Secretary of Energy assigned NR responsibility for NASA's Project Prometheus space nuclear power development, for which Mr. Bell was the head reactor engineer and technologist. After NR's role in Project Prometheus ended in August 2006, he became an assistant to NR's Chief Physicist, responsible for core physics technology, before returning to the Reactor Engineering Division in May 2008.

Mr. Bell was selected by Admiral Donald (NR's fifth director) to head the Advanced Reactor Design Branch in September 2008. In this position, he serves as NR's senior nuclear reactor design engineer and has led the design of a reduced-cost nuclear reactor core for future VIRGINIA-class submarines, a new land-based prototype reactor core, and the reactor for a new class of ballistic missile submarines to replace the OHIO class.

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