

Nomination of Dr. Brian W. Sheron, Director, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, for the Roger W. Jones Award for Executive Leadership 2012

*Biographical Sketch, including employment and significant awards.*

Dr. Brian W. Sheron is currently the Office Director of the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). In this position, Dr. Sheron oversees the agency's regulatory research programs which help resolve important safety issues, evaluate industry initiatives, enhance understanding of new technologies, identify needed enhancements to NRC regulations and contribute to a risk informed, performance-based regulatory framework. The office works cooperatively with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and other Federal agencies, the U.S. nuclear industry and universities, and international partners.

Dr. Sheron is one of six technical Office Directors at the NRC and leads one of three offices specifically mandated by Congress. He provides outstanding leadership as the longest tenured Senior Executive Service (SES) member at the agency. The NRC relies on his leadership skills and vast experience in formulating policy on a national level as we ensure the continued safe and secure operations of nuclear facilities and create the tools necessary to support the licensing of a new generation of power reactors.

Dr. Sheron joined the former U.S. Atomic Energy Commission in 1973 and then the NRC in 1976 as a nuclear engineer. He moved swiftly to positions of increasing responsibility, demonstrating outstanding technical and managerial capabilities during each of his assignments and significantly contributing to the fulfillment of NRC's safety and security mission. He served in a number of progressively responsible positions in the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR), including Section Chief in the Reactor Systems Branch; Chief, Reactor Systems Branch; and Deputy Director, Division of Safety Review and Oversight. In 1982, Dr. Sheron was appointed to the SES of the Federal Government, and from 1982 to 1987 he served in a number of strategic positions within NRR responsible for responding to the many technical challenges facing the U.S. nuclear fleet following the accident at Three Mile Island in 1979. From 1987 to 1994, Dr. Sheron worked in RES where he held the positions of Director, Division of Reactor and Plant Systems, and Director, Division of Systems Research. He subsequently returned to NRR where he served as the Director of the Division of Engineering. In 1997, Dr. Sheron was named Associate Director for Project Licensing and Technical Analysis in NRR.

In 2006, Dr. Sheron was appointed by the Chairman and approved by the Commission of the NRC to his current position, Director of RES, which is responsible for the agency's research program. The NRC's research program supports the agency's mission by addressing current safety issues associated with licensing, inspection, and oversight; providing the technical basis for risk-informed and performance-based rulemaking initiatives; and anticipating and resolving emerging safety issues. Dr. Sheron provides leadership to a staff of about 250 employees, with an annual research budget of over \$60 million.

Dr. Sheron has received SES Performance Awards every year from 1983 to the present and was awarded the Presidential Meritorious Rank Award in 1992, 1997, and 2003.

Prior to joining the NRC, Dr. Sheron worked on the Clinch River Breeder Reactor Project with the Former Atomic Energy Commission and the former Energy Research and Development Administration, which was the predecessor for DOE.

Dr. Sheron graduated from Duke University in 1969 with a B.S. degree in Electrical Engineering. He received his M.S. degree in Nuclear Engineering in 1971 and his Ph.D. in Nuclear Engineering in 1975, both from the Catholic University of America.

In his spare time, Dr. Sheron enjoys playing the 5-string banjo, which includes playing in a bluegrass band that performs occasionally in the area and provides free performances to certain charitable organizations. He also has a 19' x 13' HO-scale model train layout in his basement that models the Long Island Railroad, Port Jefferson Branch, circa 1964, which has been featured in a national model railroading magazine. The National Model Railroad Association recently awarded him the title of "Master Model Railroader" which is a title that has been awarded to less than 500 people in the entire United States since its inception in the early 1970's. He is married and a father to two sons. He and his wife are also active in Rat Terrier rescue and adoption.

In summary, for more than 35 years, Dr. Sheron has served the NRC, rising from the ranks of a nuclear engineer to his current position as Director of RES. His exemplary leadership and regulatory experience are invaluable in managing the U.S. nuclear regulatory research program which interfaces with numerous other Federal agencies and dozens of international partners in ensuring that our regulations are adequate and based on in-depth research.