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NRC Commissioner William D. Magwood IV Announces Departure Date

NRC Commissioner William D. Magwood IV announced today he will step down from his position at the NRC effective at the close of business Aug. 31, 2014. He will assume his new position as the Director-General of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's (OECD) Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) on Sept. 1. Magwood was initially sworn in to the Commission on April 1, 2010. His term was to run through June 2015.

Magwood has had a distinguished career in the nuclear field and in public service. Most notably, he was the longest-serving head of the United States' civilian nuclear technology program, serving two Presidents and five Secretaries of Energy.

"It has been a rare honor to have been one of only 33 people to have served as an NRC Commissioner," Magwood said. "The NRC is a truly outstanding organization that stands as a powerful model for nuclear safety organizations throughout the world. The mission of the NRC has engendered a culture of independence of decision-making, dedication to purpose, and commitment to excellence to which one would hope all regulators and staffs might aspire. Though my tenure with the NRC is coming to its end, I will remain a strong advocate for these values."

As he leaves the agency, Magwood expressed particular thanks to his Commission colleagues and to the NRC staff.

"I am proud to have worked alongside a cadre of exceptional public servants dedicated to protecting public health and safety through a commitment to openness and independence," he said.

The NEA is a specialized subagency within the OECD comprised of 31 member countries. The NEA, with the support of its member countries, focuses on facilitating policy analyses, sharing information and experience amongst its members, developing cooperative research projects, and developing consensus positions on technical issues, including those relevant to nuclear safety regulators around the world. Its work is focused upon developing and maintaining the scientific, technical, and legal basis for ensuring that nuclear power, where it is used, is used in a safe, environmentally friendly, and economical manner.

At OECD, Commissioner Magwood succeeds Luis Echávarri, who retired in April 2014 after 17 years at the head of the NEA.

“The work of an NRC Commissioner is often humbling, generally challenging, and always rewarding,” Magwood said. “I thank the Administration for the opportunity to serve and for the support I’ve received in moving to my next public service assignment. As my tenure draws to a close, I recall that I pledged during my confirmation to ‘do the right thing even when the right thing isn’t easy.’ I am proud to end my term with that commitment met.”