



## **Nils J. Diaz** **Commissioner**

*Term: December 1, 2008 - September 30, 2010*

Dr. Nils J. Diaz is the Managing Director of The ND2 Group, an expert and policy advisor group with a strong focus on the national and international nuclear power development and deployment arena, including new and existing plant licensing, regulatory, financial, policy and communications issues.

Nils Diaz is the immediate past Chairman of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). Dr. Diaz was designated Chairman of the NRC by President Bush on April 1, 2003, a position he served in until his retirement from government service on June 30, 2006. As Chairman of the NRC, Dr. Diaz served as the principal executive officer of and the official spokesman for the NRC, and had ultimate authority for all NRC functions pertaining to an emergency involving an NRC license; he was directly responsible for all high level interactions with the US Executive Branch and the Congress, as well as the international relationships and the policy development under NRC's charter. Dr. Diaz was first nominated by President Clinton and confirmed by the Senate as a Commissioner with the NRC in August 1996, nominated and confirmed again in 2001, and served in this position until he assumed the Chairmanship.

Prior to his appointment to the NRC, Dr. Diaz was the Director of a national consortium for advanced nuclear power and propulsion (INSPI) for the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization (BMDO), Department of Defense (1985-1996), and Professor of Nuclear Engineering Sciences at the University of Florida (1969-1996). As Director for BMDO, he exercised prime contractor management and Lead Scientist responsibilities for a diverse group of industries (including Aerojet, Boeing, Pratt& Whitney, Hughes Electronics, Rocketdyne and SRI), several national laboratories (including Los Alamos NL, Sandia NL, and Lawrence Livermore NL) and seven major universities, under contracts with the Department of Defense, the Defense Nuclear Agency, the Department of Energy and NASA. From 1969 to 1996, Dr. Diaz held senior positions at universities, Boards and industry, and consulted for the U.S. Government and other governments on civilian nuclear energy development. He also owned six small corporations serving the nuclear industry and government during that period

and spent six years at nuclear utilities and reactor vendors, often troubleshooting technical and management performance issues. He lived in Europe in 1981-1982, while serving as Principal Advisor to Spain's Consejo de Seguridad Nuclear, and consulting for other nuclear industries in other European countries.

Dr. Diaz is internationally recognized for his broad expertise and contributions to nuclear sciences, reactor systems and fuels, to the regulation of nuclear facilities and radioactive materials, and to nuclear policy analysis and development. He has worked extensively in the international arena, including interacting and contributing to major policy, fora and decision-making efforts. He has published extensively, and is recognized worldwide for his statesmanship on nuclear affairs. He has received many national and international awards, including the Henry DeWolf Smyth 2008 Nuclear Statesman Award, awarded by the Nuclear Energy Institute, representing the nuclear industry, and by the American Nuclear Society.

Dr. Diaz holds a Ph.D. and M.S. in Nuclear Engineering Sciences from the University of Florida, and a B.S. Degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Villanova, Havana. He was licensed as a Senior Reactor Operator by the NRC and has formal training and practice in health physics, radiological sciences and nuclear medicine. He is a Fellow of the American Nuclear Society, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences.