



RICK CHRISTENSEN

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Rick Christensen currently serves as the associate deputy assistant secretary for nuclear reactors in the US Department of Energy's Office of Nuclear Energy. In this role, Rick is responsible for implementing the Department of Energy's efforts to sustain the United States' current fleet of nuclear power plants, support the development, piloting, and demonstration of new and advanced nuclear reactor technology, and support United States Government partner

missions requiring the application of nuclear reactor technologies. Prior to his current role, Rick served as the director of the Office of Nuclear Incident Response where he directed, administered, and oversaw the Nuclear Emergency Support Team (NEST), to include the staffing, training, equipping, and exercising of NEST's countering weapons of mass destruction, nuclear weapon accident/incident response, nuclear/radiological public health and safety, and nuclear forensics missions to ensure a response-ready NEST. Rick previously served as director for Nuclear Threat Reduction and Counterterrorism at the National Security Council where he was responsible for coordinating U.S. interagency activities to prevent, counter, and respond to nuclear terrorism as well as priority nuclear energy, nonproliferation, and arms control initiatives. Additionally, he served as the acting deputy director for the Office of Nuclear Threat Science, Chief of the Nuclear Counterterrorism Technical Program and was responsible for the execution of NNSA's Post Detonation Nuclear Forensics program where he coordinated science and technology development efforts for the mission as well as the maintenance of NNSA's operational response capabilities in this mission area. Rick joined NNSA in 2008 as part of the Future Leader's Program, gaining experience in emergency management, incident response, international capacity building, nuclear forensics, and nuclear counterterrorism, as well as completing detail assignments with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. He holds a bachelor's degree in nuclear engineering from the Pennsylvania State University.