



David Decker,
Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Introduction to the Office of Congressional Affairs

September 5, 2019



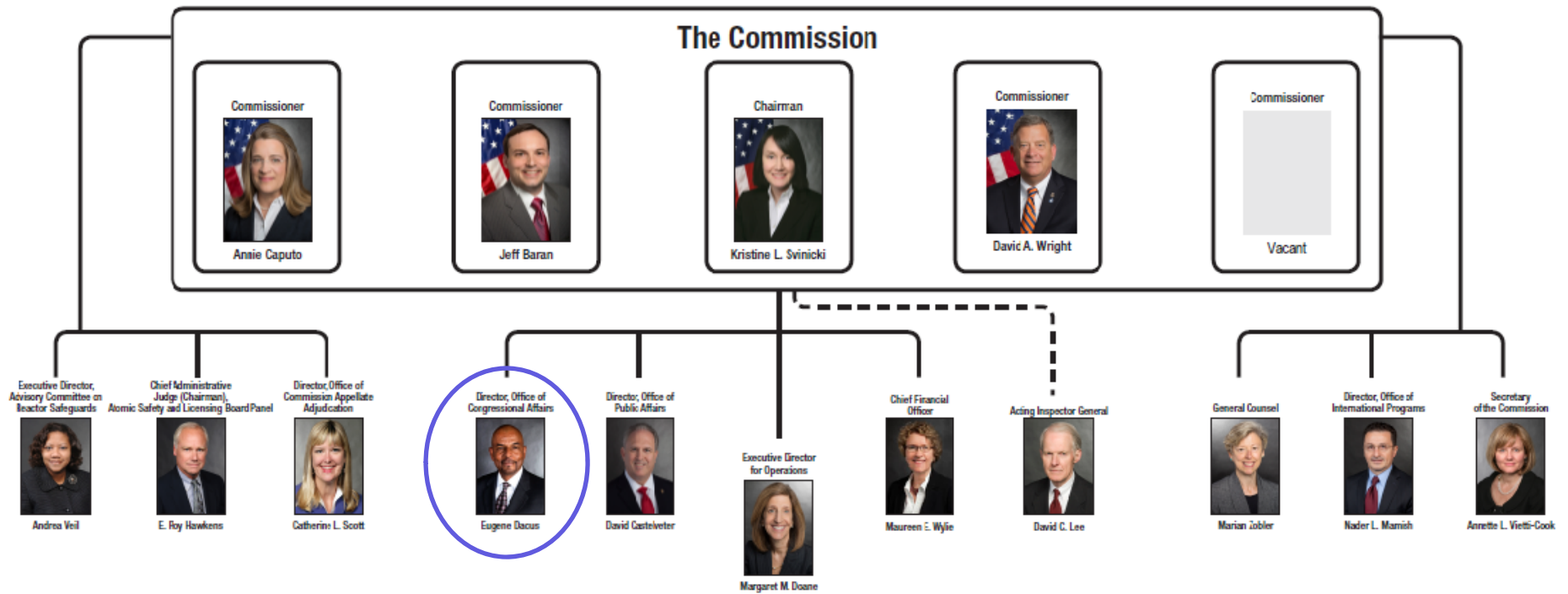
OCA

Mission

Our mission is to provide to the Chairman and members of the Commission and all NRC employees with timely and reliable information as it pertains to legislative matters affecting the NRC in the United States Congress and to advise and ensure proper protocol with regards to visits by members of the Commission and others to the Congress other agencies. It is also the goal of OCA to ensure correct and timely information is distributed to other Federal agencies and external organizations.

OCA reports to, and is under the direction of the Chairman

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission



NRC Governing Legislation – OCA

- **Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as Amended**

Sec. 303. Information and Assistance to Congressional Committees

a. The Secretary of Energy and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission shall keep the committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives which, under the rules of the Senate and the House, have jurisdiction over the functions of the Secretary or the Commission, **fully and currently informed** with respect to the activities of the Secretary and the Commission.

- **Energy Reorganization Act of 1974**

Sec. 201. Establishment and Transfers.

The Chairman (or Acting Chairman in the absence of the Chairman) shall be the official spokesman of the Commission in its relations with the Congress....

Functions

- Responsible for administering the agency's Congressional Affairs Program
- Provide advice and assistance to the Chairman, the Commission, and NRC staff on all NRC relations with Congress
- Keeps NRC currently and fully informed on the views of Congress toward NRC policies, plans, and activities
- Also in the Office of Congressional Affairs:
 - Protocol Office
 - Federal and External Affairs Program



OCA Responsibilities

- Supports the Commission nomination process by acting as the nominee's liaison for all relations with Congress



Chairman
Kristine L. Svinicki



Commissioner
Jeff Baran

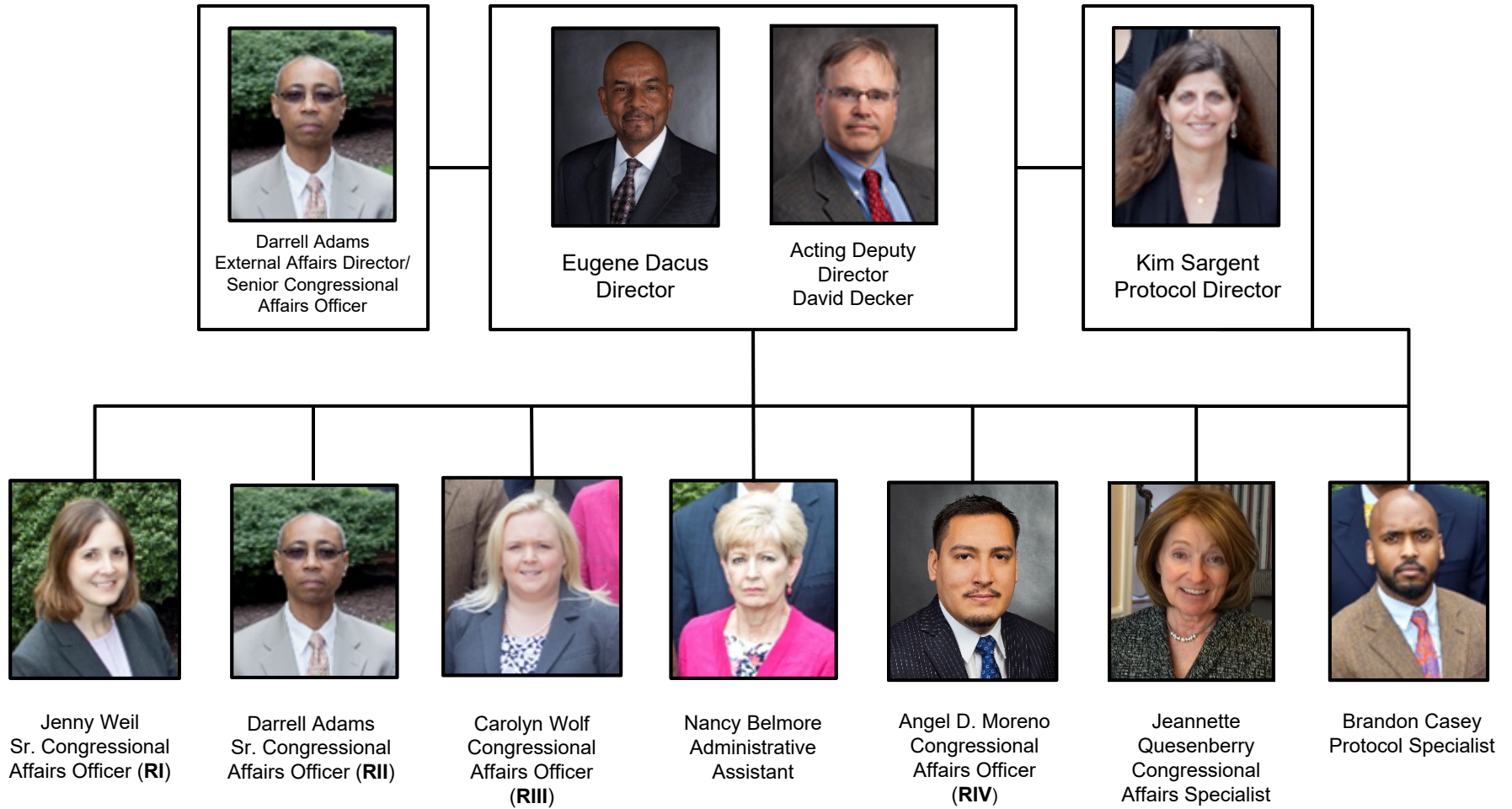


Commissioner
Annie Caputo



Commissioner
David A. Wright

Office of Congressional Affairs



Congressional Outreach Activities



- Primary contact for all communications with Congress
- Keeps the appropriate Congressional oversight committees informed about NRC's activities
- Coordinates briefings and notifications between Members of Congress, Congressional staff, and NRC technical experts

OCA Responsibilities

- Monitors legislative proposals, bills, floor action, and hearings.
- Coordinates internal NRC activities and arrangements for visits, tours, notifications, presentations, briefings, and other activities with individual members of Congress or congressional committees and their staffs to inform them more fully of the role and activities of NRC and significant events.
- Transmits routine communications to Congress, including notifications of proposed rulemakings, new and revised regulatory guides, announcements of regulatory actions, studies, reports, public documents, and other items of a routine nature; prepares direct responses to routine congressional requests and inquiries.



- Represents the Commission, as appropriate, in conferences and meetings with members of Congress and their staffs and arranges for appearances for NRC representatives before congressional committees.

A Day in the Life

- Coordinate Congressional Staffer Briefings
 - San Onofre issues
 - Storage of spent fuel
 - Decommissioning of nuclear power plants
- Meet With Congressional Staffers
 - Introduce ourselves so staffers know who they can call
 - Gain insights into what House/Senate is thinking
- Provide Information to Congressional Staffers
 - Prevent any “surprises” from occurring
 - Weekly update on upcoming public meetings that may be of interest
- Answer Congressional Staffer Questions
 - Impact of government shut-down
 - Day-to-day issues at plants (SONGS,
 - Advanced Reactors/Small Modular Reactors
 - Agreement State program (Wyoming, Vermont)

Oversight Committees



Senate Environment and Public Works
Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety



Senate Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development



House Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Energy
Subcommittee on Environment



House Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development

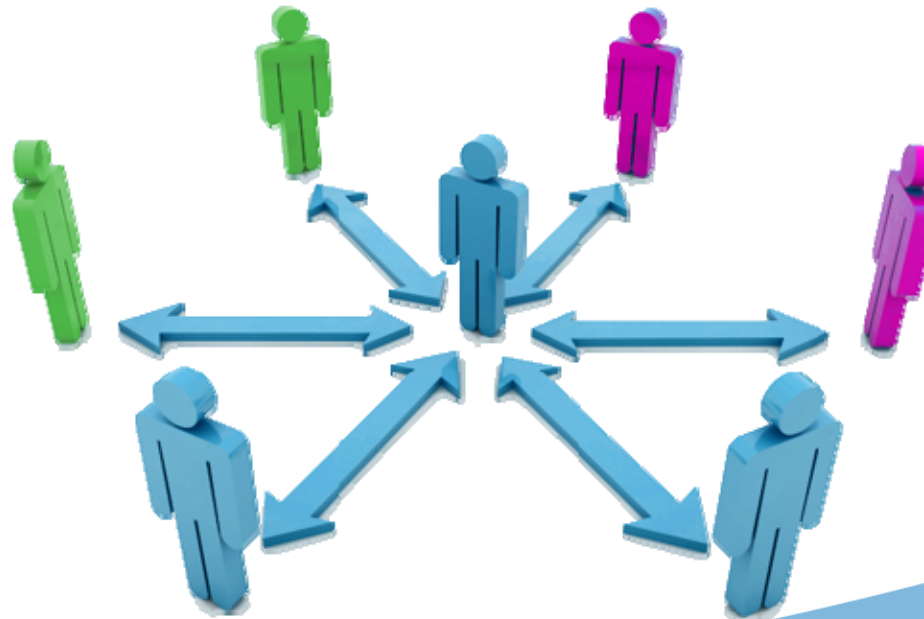
NRC Protocol Office

- Liaison for official visits between the Commission and
 - Members of Congress
 - Distinguished Visitors
 - Other Dignitaries
- Arranges Commission participation in all NRC activities, including:
 - Regulatory Information Conference (RIC)
 - Award Ceremonies
 - Diversity Events
- Organizes Commission Swearing In & Farewell Ceremonies



Federal and External Affairs Program

- Initial point of contact for Commission interactions with other Federal agencies and external organizations, including those which represent public interest groups, non-governmental organizations, and the nuclear industry



A Day in the Life



Office of Protocol works with the OIP to coordinate a meeting between Marta Ziakova, Chairperson of the Nuclear Regulatory Authority of the Slovak Republic and the Commission at the RIC (March 2016).