# POSITION DESCRIPTION

# Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy, Department of energy

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| **OVERVIEW** | |
| Senate Committee | Energy and Natural Resources |
| Agency Mission | To ensure America’s security and prosperity by addressing its energy, environmental and nuclear challenges through transformative science and technology solutions. |
| Position Overview | The assistant secretary for nuclear energy leads the Office of Nuclear Energy in its mission to advance the contribution of nuclear power to the nation’s energy supply as well as its environmental and energy security needs by resolving technical, cost, safety, security and regulatory issues through research, development and demonstration. |
| Compensation | Level IV $155,500 (5 U.S.C. § 5315)[[1]](#endnote-1) |
| Position Reports to | Undersecretary for Science and Energy[[2]](#endnote-2) |
| **RESPONSIBILITIES** | |
| Management Scope | The Office of Nuclear Energy fiscal 2016 enacted budget was $986 million and the 2018 budget request was $703 million. Nuclear Energy had 351 full-time equivalents in 2016.[[3]](#endnote-3) |
| Primary Responsibilities | * Leads the Office of Nuclear Energy * Engages on the international level to support the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear energy, and supports other departmental offices and federal agencies on issues related to the international use of civilian nuclear energy * Fosters the capability to use nuclear power systems in national security and space exploration missions * Provides oversight for specifically assigned front-end fuel cycle responsibilities and stewardship of the Department of Energy Idaho Site[[4]](#endnote-4) |
| Strategic Goals and Priorities | [Depends on the policy priorities of the administration] |
| **REQUIREMENTS AND COMPETENCIES** | |
| Requirements | * Energy background, preferably with a focus on nuclear energy * Previous government experience (preferred) * Strong management experience * Relationships with relevant stakeholders or ability to form them * Familiarity with the legislative and federal budget process |
| Competencies | * Strong communication and interpersonal skills * Excellent leadership and negotiation skills * Ability to work under high pressure and handle sensitive matters * Ability to work in a matrixed environment with diverse high-level stakeholders |
| **PAST APPOINTEES** | |
| Peter Bruce Lyons (2011 to 2017): Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Nuclear Energy; Commissioner, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Science Advisor, Senator Pete Domenici and the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources[[5]](#endnote-5) | |
| Warren F. Miller, Jr. (2009 to 2011): Associate Director of the Nuclear Security Science and Policy Institute, Texas A&M University; TEES Professor, Texas A&M University; Senior Administrator, Los Alamos National Laboratory[[6]](#endnote-6) | |
| Dennis R. Spurgeon (2006 to 2009): Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Office, USEC, Inc.; Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and Principal Owner, Swiftships; Assistant Director for Fuel Cycle, Energy Research and Development Administration[[7]](#endnote-7) | |

1. The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (Public Law 115-31, May 5, 2017), contains a provision that continues the freeze on the payable pay rates for certain senior political officials at 2013 levels during calendar year 2017. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. https://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2017/01/f34/DOECHART-2017-01.pdf [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. https://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2017/05/f34/FY2018BudgetVolume3\_0.pdf [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. OPM [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. https://energy.gov/contributors/peter-b-lyons [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. http://cisac.fsi.stanford.edu/people/warren\_f\_miller [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
7. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dennis\_Spurgeon [↑](#endnote-ref-7)