



Mechanical Engineering  
Academy of Distinguished Alumni

**Dale Klein, Ph.D., P.E.**  
*Honorary Mechanical Engineer, 2005*

BSME, University of Missouri-Columbia, 1970  
MSME, University of Missouri-Columbia, 1971  
Ph.D., Nuclear Engineering, University of Missouri-Columbia,  
1977

*Associate Vice Chancellor for Research*  
The University of Texas System  
*Professor of Mechanical Engineering (Nuclear  
Program)*  
The University of Texas at Austin

Dr. Dale E. Klein rejoined The University of Texas System in January of 2011 as associate vice chancellor for research in the Office of Academic Affairs. In April of 2010, after serving 8 ½ years as a presidential appointee, Dr. Klein returned to Texas from Washington, D.C., working at The University of Texas at Austin as the associate director of The Energy Institute, associate vice president for research, and a professor of mechanical engineering (nuclear program).

Dr. Klein was sworn into the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission in 2006, and was appointed chairman by President George W. Bush, serving in that role from July 2006 to May 2009. As chairman, Dr. Klein was the principal executive officer and official spokesman for the NRC, responsible for conducting the administrative, organizational, long-range planning, budgetary, and certain personnel functions of the agency. Additionally, he had the ultimate authority for all NRC functions pertaining to an emergency involving an NRC licensee. The remainder of this term was as commissioner of the NRC from May 2009 to March 2010.

Before joining the NRC, Dr. Klein served as the assistant to the secretary of defense for nuclear, chemical and biological defense programs. He was appointed to this position by President George W. Bush and confirmed by the Senate in 2001. In this position, he served as the principal staff assistant and advisor to the secretary of defense, deputy secretary of defense, and the under secretary of defense for

acquisition, technology and logistics for all policy and planning matters related to nuclear weapons and nuclear, chemical, and biological defense programs.

Previously, Dr. Klein served as the vice-chancellor for special engineering programs at The University of Texas System and as a professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering (Nuclear Program) at The University of Texas at Austin. During his tenure at the university, Dr. Klein was director of the Nuclear Engineering Teaching Laboratory, deputy director of the Center for Energy Studies, and associate dean for research and administration in the College of Engineering.

Honors and awards Dr. Klein has received include the Henry DeWolf Smyth Nuclear Statesman Award in 2011, Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the American Nuclear Society, Engineer of the Year for the State of Texas, the University of Missouri Faculty-Alumni Award, and the University of Missouri Honor Award for Distinguished Service in Engineering.

In addition to his academic assignments, Dr. Klein serves on the Board of the Southern Company and the Board of Pinnacle West/Arizona Public Service Company. He also serves on the Committee for Nuclear Power in the United Arab Emirates and chairs the Nuclear Reform Monitoring Committee for the Tokyo Electric Power Company following the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident.