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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission
to be Inducted to
HENAAC Hall of Fame**

HENAAC and its Hall of Fame Committee are proud to announce that Dr. Nils Diaz, Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has been selected for induction to the HENAAC Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony will take place during the HENAAC Awards Show on Friday, October 7, 2005 at the Anaheim Marriott Marquis Ballroom in Anaheim, CA. The HENAAC Awards Show is the centerpiece of the 17th Annual HENAAC Conference to be held October 6-8, 2005 in Anaheim, CA.

Dr. Nils Diaz - On April 1, 2003, President George W. Bush designated Dr. Nils J. Diaz as Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The Chairman is the principal executive officer of and the official spokesman for the NRC. As principal executive officer, the Chairman is responsible for conducting the administrative, organizational, long-range planning, budgetary and particular personnel functions of the agency. The Chairman has ultimate authority for all NRC functions pertaining to an emergency involving an NRC license.

Dr. Diaz has been a Commissioner with the NRC since 1996. As a member of the Commission, Dr. Diaz participates in the exercise and direction of the Commission's licensing and regulatory functions. His duties include policy formulation and rulemaking, as well as issuing regulations, related orders, and guidance for protection of the public health and safety, the common defense and security, and the environment in the civilian uses of nuclear energy and materials. Dr. Diaz has played a leadership role in security issues affecting NRC licenses and was instrumental in strengthening security in the post-9/11 era using realistic and practical regulatory scenarios.

A native of Moron, Cuba, 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 has received formal training and practice in Nuclear Medicine and Health Physics and was licensed as a Senior Reactor Operator for 12 years by the NRC. He has published more than 70 refereed papers on national and international journals. He is a Fellow of the American Nuclear Society, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Dr. Diaz was the recipient of the 1990 HENAAC Outstanding Technical Achievement Award, an honor he received due to his leadership in the field of nuclear engineering.

The Hall of Fame was established by HENAAC in 1998 to recognize the world class achievements among its many winners. Members of the Hall of Fame have achieved a level of excellence that opens doors to advances in science, engineering and technology, and opens minds about the contributions of Hispanics in these fields. With the induction of the Class of 2004, the Hall of Fame now boasts twenty-five distinguished members. The Hall of Fame Museum Exhibit, which consists of a graphite portrait of each member, is a one-of-a kind exhibit of our nation's leading Hispanic engineers and scientists. For more information on the Hall of Fame, please visit our website at www.henaac.org.

All members of the media are invited to attend the HENAAC Awards Show at the Anaheim Marriott Marquis Ballroom in Anaheim, CA from 7:00-9:00pm on October 7, 2005. To RSVP, please contact Kristina Ruidas, Communications Coordinator at (323) 262-0997 or kristina@henaac.org.

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