

Wesley C. Patrick
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Dr. Wesley (Wes) Patrick is Executive Director of the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA[®]) at Southwest Research Institute[®] (SwRI[®]), one of the oldest and largest independent nonprofit research and development organizations in the nation. The CNWRA is a federally funded research and development center operated by SwRI on behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

As its Executive Director, Patrick is responsible for all aspects of operation of CNWRA as the primary technical support contractor to the U.S. NRC. Established as NRC's sole research center in 1987, its primary mission is to provide research, technical assistance, and regulatory analyses related to environmentally sound, safe disposal, storage, and transportation of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive wastes. He led expansion of the role of CNWRA to support NRC on a full spectrum of waste management, fuel cycle facility safety, interim waste storage, decommissioning, and environmental programs, as well as to provide contract research support to international organizations responsible for radioactive waste management.

From 2005 through February 2017, he was Vice President of the Geosciences and Engineering Division of SwRI, where he had overall responsibility for a division engaged in radioactive waste management, groundwater resource analysis, energy exploration and development, planetary sciences, environmental impact assessment, and site characterization. In this position, he was responsible for CNWRA and the Department of Earth, Material, and Planetary Sciences (DEMPS), which conducted applied research and development for a wide range of governmental and industrial organizations in the U.S. and abroad. In particular, DEMPS developed and applied technology for exploration and exploitation of conventional and unconventional oil and gas resources through client-specific and consortia-based research projects. From 1992-2005, he served as President of the CNWRA, resumed responsibility as its director in 2012, and became executive director after reorganizing and streamlining it in 2017 to meet the evolving needs of the clients it serves.

Dr. Patrick has successfully led a number of complex, highly visible projects and is a recognized technical expert in design and execution of large-scale multi-disciplinary field programs. Before joining SwRI, Dr. Patrick conducted field investigations at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico and the Spent Fuel Test-Climax in Nevada. The latter project, which was led by Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, was an engineering demonstration of emplacement, storage, and retrieval of actual spent nuclear fuel in a granitic rock formation.

Dr. Patrick's education encompasses civil and mining engineering, with facilitating skills in computer science. A rock mechanic and field experimentalist by training, he holds a B.S degree from Michigan Technological University, and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the Missouri Institute of Science and Technology.