

# NIST Safety Commission Update

## Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology

Dr. Mark Peters  
Chair, NIST Safety Commission

# Charge to the NIST Safety Commission



## **Charge to the Commission:**

Assess the state of NIST's safety culture and how effectively the existing safety protocols and policies have been implemented across NIST.

### **The Commission will evaluate:**

- the quality and completeness of NIST safety directives and programs,
- the performance of safety protocols and the responses to recent incidents and near misses, and
- the impacts of the pandemic and hybrid work environment on safety.

### **The Commission should consider:**

- perspectives of NIST staff and management,
- NIST's responses to significant safety-related incidents and near-misses,
- findings from investigations and reviews of incidents, and
- implementation of corrective actions to prevent future incidents and improve safety performance, as well as actions taken to strengthen safety culture at NIST facilities.

# NIST Safety Commission



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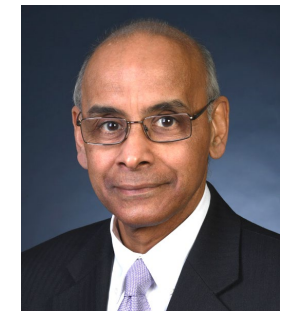
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**Mark Peters, Ph.D.**  
Executive Vice President  
National Laboratory Management  
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**S. Shyam Sunder, Sc.D.  
(Designed Federal Official)**  
Director, Special Programs Office  
and Chief Data Officer  
National Institute of Standards & Technology

- **Convene approximately three times in person over a 150-day period**
  - First meeting held January 4-5, 2023, in Gaithersburg, MD
  - Second meeting being planned for March 9-10, 2023, in Boulder, CO
  - Third meeting to be scheduled late April or early May in Gaithersburg, MD
- **Preliminary oral report to NIST Director within three months**  
(anticipated in late March 2023)
- **Final report to NIST Director with findings and recommendations in six months** (anticipated in June 2023)

- **Briefings and Presentations by NIST Leadership**

NIST Director  
Associate Director for Laboratory Programs  
NIST Chief Safety Officer

NIST Chief Facilities Management Officer  
Director, NIST Center for Neutron Research  
Director, Engineering Laboratory

- **Focus Groups & Discussions (participation of 65-70 staff & managers at January meeting)**

Laboratory Directors  
Division Chiefs  
Office of Occupational Safety, Health, & Environment Staff  
Office of Facilities and Property Management Staff

Long Tenure Scientists  
Division Safety Representatives  
Early and Mid Career Scientists  
Technicians

- **Tours of NIST Laboratories and Facilities (3 lab tours at January meeting)**

National Fire Research Laboratory  
NIST Center for Neutron Research  
NIST NanoFab at the Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology

- **Review of NIST Safety-Related Data and Documents**



## **Planning for Second In-Person Commission Meeting**

- Review inputs received from focus group participants and other staff, briefings and presentations by NIST leadership, and via safety-related data and documents
- Identify major themes around which to focus the work of the Commission
- Identify agenda topics of interest for the next meeting of the Commission in Boulder, CO

## **Examples of Some Additional Areas for Review**

- Results of the FY 2023 NIST Safety Culture Survey
- Reports from NRC and external consultants on unplanned shutdown of NIST Center for Neutron Research on 2/3/2021
- NIST root cause analysis report of tragic incident resulting in a fatality on 9/26/2022
- OSHA report of tragic incident resulting in a fatality on 9/26/2022
- Role of safety in enterprise risk management at NIST