



Marcia K. McNutt, Director

Dr. Marcia K. McNutt is a distinguished geophysicist and experienced administrator. She previously spent 15 years on the faculty of MIT and for 12 years served as president and chief executive officer of the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI), in Moss Landing, CA. She also serves as the Secretary of the Interior's science advisor.

As a scientist, Dr. McNutt's own research has involved field work on land and sea across several continents and numerous ocean basins.. She has published 90 peer-reviewed scientific articles. In 2010, she spent May through August working directly with BP, DOE, and the U.S. Coast Guard in Houston evaluating options to contain the oil and cap BP's Macondo well after the Deepwater Horizon explosion. She also led the Flow Rate Technical Group which estimated that the total spill was 4.9 million barrels of oil.

McNutt's honors and awards include membership in the National Academy of Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She served as President of the American Geophysical Union from 2000-2002. She is a fellow of the American Geophysical Union, the Geological Society of America, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the International Association of Geodesy. She holds honorary degrees from the University of Minnesota, Colorado College, and Monmouth University.

McNutt received a BA degree in Physics, summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, from Colorado College in Colorado Springs. As a National Science Foundation Graduate Fellow, she studied geophysics at Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, California, where she earned a PhD in Earth Sciences in 1978. She then spent three years with the USGS in Menlo Park, CA, working on earthquake prediction.

Dr. McNutt joined the faculty at MIT in 1982 where she became the Griswold Professor of Geophysics and served as Director of the Joint Program in Oceanography & Applied Ocean Science & Engineering, offered by MIT & the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

McNutt is a native of Minneapolis, MN, where she graduated class valedictorian from Northrop Collegiate School in 1970.