

Corri A. Feige
Commissioner

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Department of
Natural Resources

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STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

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Longtime Alaska geologist Dave LePain named new DGGGS director

New State Geologist takes over for retiring Steve Masterman

(Fairbanks, AK) – Longtime Alaska geologist Dave LePain has been named to succeed Steve Masterman as State Geologist and director of the Alaska Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys (DGGGS).

LePain took over for Masterman on March 1. Masterman is assisting with the leadership transition for the next month and will retire in April after serving as DGGGS director and State Geologist for more than eight years.

LePain is no stranger to DGGGS, having served as the Division's Energy Resources Section Chief since 2014. A highly experienced geologist, LePain's work in Alaska has focused on the North Slope, including the northeastern Brooks Range, Cook Inlet, and several Interior sedimentary basins. LePain began working for DGGGS in 1998 before leaving in 2003 to work at the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey, then returning to DGGGS in 2006. In 2012, LePain spent a year in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, working for Saudi Aramco before returning, yet again, to DGGGS to serve as Petroleum Geologist and Energy Resources Section Chief.

"I am thrilled that Dave was willing to step into this role," said Department of Natural Resources Commissioner Corri Feige. "I think Alaska's significance in energy and mineral development, and the importance of these resources to the nation, will be in sharp focus in the years ahead. Dave is highly qualified and respected in this arena and will help us seize these opportunities."

LePain will have big boots to fill taking over for Masterman, who spent eight years representing DGGGS at the state and national level to raise awareness of Alaska's mineral and energy resource potential, sand and gravel resources, coastal erosion risks, and other geologic hazards to ensure the safety and well-being of all Alaskans. Masterman represented DGGGS in state, regional, and national organizations, including as president of the American Association of American State Geologists.

“While I am sad to be leaving, I have greatly enjoyed my time at DGGGS and I am very glad to be handing off to Dave, in whom I have great confidence,” said Masterman.

DGGGS is part of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources and is organized into six program sections: Energy Resources, Mineral Resources, Engineering Geology, Volcanology, the Geologic Information Center, and the Alaska Geologic Materials Center. In addition, DGGGS currently oversees operations of the Alaska Geospatial Office (AGO).

With more than 50 full-time employees and an annual budget exceeding \$9 million, DGGGS collaborates with a variety of state and national organizations to serve a wide range of geologic data and information.

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