Deputy Secretary Butch Tongate

BIOGRAPHY

Butch Tongate was appointed by Governor Susana Martinez as the Deputy Secretary of the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) in October 2011. Prior to accepting his current position, he served as the Director of the Environmental Protection Division in NMED, overseeing the operations of five bureaus within the Department.

During his nearly 19 years with NMED, Mr. Tongate has held a number of positions. He started with the Solid Waste Bureau as the state recycling coordinator in 1993 and later managed the bureau's permitting program. In 2000, he was promoted to bureau chief, where he served until 2003. After a brief stint as a special projects officer in NMED's Administrative Services Division, Mr. Tongate was asked to serve as chief of the Occupational Health and Safety Bureau, a position he held until April of 2011. He currently serves as chair of the Occupational Safety and Health State Plan Association and the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission.

Prior to joining NMED, Mr. Tongate worked as a legislative consultant in Washington, D.C., director of marketing for Army programs at Hughes Aircraft Company, and as an officer in the United States Marine Corps. Mr. Tongate received a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics from the U.S. Naval Academy and a Master of Science degree in Systems Management from the University of Southern California.

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