



C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
GOVERNOR

NEWS RELEASE

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CURT FRANSEN RETIRING AS DIRECTOR OF DEQ

(BOISE) – Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter announced today that Curt Fransen, director of the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality since February 2012, will retire next month after a long career in State government.

Fransen's last day on the job is May 22. Governor Otter is in the process of finding a successor.

"While perhaps there is no good time for a Director to retire, DEQ's structure, staff and performance are sound and DEQ is prepared to address the significant challenges it faces in the coming years," Fransen wrote in a letter informing the Governor of his retirement plans. "While I am retiring from full-time state service, I hope to contribute to the success of our great state in other roles in the future."

Governor Otter appointed Fransen, an attorney, after Director Toni Hardesty resigned to become Idaho director of The Nature Conservancy. His first State job was as a deputy attorney general representing the Department of Health and Welfare's Division of Health from 1983 to 1986. He was chief of the Environmental Quality Section of the Attorney General's Natural Resources Division from 1986 to 1997. He moved to Coeur d'Alene in 1997, representing a number of State agencies on mining cleanup and other northern Idaho natural resources issues until becoming DEQ's deputy director in 2007.

"Curt has been one of those directors whose skill and savvy help make everyone else's job easier. His professional demeanor and commitment to public service have been a comfort," Governor Otter said. "During a time of growing federal mandates and as environmental issues are used for legal or political posturing rather than collaborative problem solving, Curt has been a stalwart and faithful executor of responsible public policy."

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