

**SUSANA MARTINEZ, GOVERNOR**David Martin, *Cabinet Secretary*Butch Tongate, *Acting Deputy Secretary***NEWS RELEASE****August 24, 2011**

**Contact:** Jim Winchester  
(505) 231-8800 / [jim.winchester@state.nm.us](mailto:jim.winchester@state.nm.us)  
Jill Turner  
(505) 222-9548 / [jill.turner@state.nm.us](mailto:jill.turner@state.nm.us)

**New Mexico Environment Department Acting Deputy Secretary  
Recognized by AGC-NM for Exemplary Service and Support**

**Albuquerque--** The New Mexico Environment Department's Acting Deputy Secretary, Butch Tongate, was recognized last week for his exemplary service and support in his former role as the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Occupational Health and Safety Bureau Chief from 2004-2011. The Associated General Contractors of New Mexico (AGC-NM) Building Branch presented Mr. Tongate with the award at a luncheon held on August 19<sup>th</sup> at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center in Albuquerque.

The special award recognizes Mr. Tongate's contributions to the advancement of construction safety in New Mexico.



Butch Tongate (at right) receiving his award from AGC-NM Building Branch chair James Magoffe.

James Magoffe, Chair of AGC-NM Building Branch Health and Safety Committee and Safety Director for Yearout Mechanical stated that "Butch has been a champion of the cooperation and partnership between New Mexico OSHA and the construction industry in New Mexico. It is because of his leadership and forward thinking with such partnership programs as the AGC-NM Building Branch's CHASE program, that has fostered safety excellence within the construction profession in New Mexico."

Margo A. Maher, Director of Safety and Education at the AGC-NM Building Branch, added that "In his capacity as NM OSHA Bureau Chief, Butch's professionalism and approachability were the cornerstones to the success of AGC's Construction Health and Safety Excellence partnership program, CHASE. As a leader, Butch set the tone for his Compliance Assistance Specialists, Don Rideout, Howard Gentry and Melissa Barker to mentor and perpetuate good safety practices as they worked with CHASE members on jobsites statewide."

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