



Bill Richardson
Governor

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Governor Richardson Appoints Karen Gallegos as Director of Environment Department's Division of Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Development

(Santa Fe, N.M.) Governor Richardson appointed Karen E. Gallegos as the Director of the New Mexico Environment Department's Division of Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Development.

Gallegos, a former diplomat and U.S. State Department political officer, will be the first director of the recently created division.

"Karen's background in management, policy decisions and law will complement her work in her new position as director," said New Mexico Environment Secretary Ron Curry. "Karen has what it takes to lead this division and will bring new ideas to the department."

Governor Richardson passed an executive order (http://www.nmrwa.org/resources/water_cabinet.pdf) in November 2007 that directed Secretary Curry to form the division, which leads an interagency effort to fund water and wastewater infrastructure projects. The Construction Programs and Drinking Water bureaus are part of the division.

"It is an honor and a privilege to assume this challenging and all important position," Gallegos said. "I look forward to using my broad substantive background and international professional experience in service to the citizens of my home state of New Mexico and am sincerely grateful to Governor Richardson and Secretary Curry for this opportunity."

Gallegos has substantive knowledge of energy and environment issues, including oil and gas, natural resources, biodiversity and conservation and global climate change.

She holds a juris doctorate degree with a concentration in Natural Resources and International Law and a bachelor's degree in University Studies from the University of New Mexico. She also has a diploma in Advanced International Legal Studies from McGeorge School of Law in Salzburg, Austria, and has completed doctoral level coursework at Emmanuel College, Cambridge University, England.

Gallegos served as a Foreign Service Officer for the U.S. Department of State in Haiti between 2003 and 2007 and as a Counternarcotics Affairs Officer for the U.S. Embassy in Costa Rica between 1999 and 2002.

She also worked as an Environmental and Scientific Affairs Officer for the Department of State, where she participated in Climate Change Country Studies Program. Her other foreign posts included consular work in Mexico City and judicial affairs in Bogota, Colombia. Gallegos is also fluent in Spanish and French.

She has been a volunteer on three continents with Earthwatch Institute, an international nonprofit organization supporting scientific field research and offering members of the public the opportunity to work with distinguished field scientists.

Gallegos is from Roswell, where she graduated from Goddard High School.

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