

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES

Vicki S. McConnell, State Geologist

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R. Charles Vars joins Governing Board

Portland, Oregon: R. Charles Vars has been appointed by Governor Ted Kulongoski and confirmed by the State Senate to serve a 4 year term with the Governing Board of The Oregon Department of Geology & Mineral Industries (DOGAMI).

Mr. Vars is a professor emeritus in economics at Oregon State University and was Chair of the three-college University Graduate Faculty of Economics when he retired in 1996.

Mr. Vars served two terms in the Corvallis City Council (1983 - 1987) and was elected Corvallis Mayor in 1986 and 1990. He has also been appointed to previous statewide official positions by four governors of Oregon and Washington over the course of his distinguished public sector career.

Speaking for the Board, State Geologist and Agency Director Vicki McConnell remarked, "It is a great pleasure to welcome Mr. Vars to the DOGAMI Governing Board. We are sure his experience with local governance and other natural resource boards and commissions will add valuable insight to the Governing Board's deliberations."

Mr Vars joins the five person DOGAMI Governing Board whose other members include, Don Haagensen of Portland (Chair), Vera Simonton of Pendleton, Steve Macnab of Bend and Barbara Seymour of Oceanside.

The Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries is an independent agency of the State, and has a broad responsibility in developing a geologic understanding of natural hazards. We then make this information available to communities and individuals to help reduce the risks from earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides, floods and volcanic eruptions. We assist in the formulation of state policy where an understanding of geologic materials, geologic resources, processes, and hazards are key to decision-making. The Department is also the lead state regulatory agency for mining, oil, gas and geothermal exploration, production and reclamation.

Learn more about Oregon's geology by going online at:
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