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News Release

For Immediate Release: July 22, 2013
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DEQ Executive Director Announces Retirement

The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) announced today that Executive Director Steve Thompson will retire effective October 1, 2013. Thompson was appointed DEQ's executive director July 2002.

During his tenure with DEQ, Thompson has been an advocate for Oklahoma in many national efforts. He has been in an ongoing leadership role in the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS), the national organization of state environmental directors. In that organization, Thompson served as president in 2004 and 2005.

In 2009, the Oklahoma Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration awarded Thompson the "Distinguished Public Service Award," recognizing his high standards of excellence in public service and his dedication to Oklahoma.

In his retirement Thompson, an El Reno resident, plans to spend time with his wife, daughter, son-in-law, and grandchildren. In 2014, he may pursue consultant opportunities.

"I want to thank all DEQ employees who work every day to both maintain and improve the environment. The staff at this agency has been integral in establishing a reputation of promoting customer service while maintaining compliance with environmental regulations," Thompson said. "Additionally, it has been an honor to serve members of the Environmental Quality Board who volunteer their time and energy to the citizens of Oklahoma."

"Steve Thompson's service has been a valuable asset to the state of Oklahoma," said Environmental Quality Board Chair John Wendling. "The board will focus on finding an executive director candidate who will carry DEQ's dedication to the protection of public health and the environment forward."

Thompson is a 1970 graduate of the University of Oklahoma with a degree in business administration. Prior to DEQ, he was Director of the Oklahoma Department of Pollution Control and Assistant Secretary of the Environment.

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