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News Release

For Immediate Release: September 19, 2013
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Environmental Quality Board Announces Interim DEQ Executive Director

The Environmental Quality Board (EQB) has appointed Jimmy Givens as the interim executive director of the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Givens has served as deputy executive director of DEQ since 2009. Prior to his appointment as deputy executive director, Givens was the agency's general counsel for more than ten years.

Givens has been an attorney and administrator with DEQ and its predecessor, the environmental branch of the Oklahoma State Department of Health, since 1985. His career also includes two years as an assistant attorney general. Givens received his bachelor's and law degrees from the University of Oklahoma.

"I am pleased to serve the agency in this capacity," said Givens. "The opportunity to lead such a talented and dedicated staff at DEQ is an honor."

The Environmental Quality Board will spend the next few months selecting a permanent executive director. This announcement follows the retirement of Steve Thompson, who has been the executive director of DEQ since 2002. Thompson's retirement is effective October 1, 2013.

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