

USGS NAMES NEW ASSISTANT CHIEF GEOLOGIST



Nancy Milton, an academy member and a resident of Washington, D. C., has been named Assistant Chief Geologist for the Eastern Region of the U.S. Geological Survey, Department of the Interior, in Reston, Va. In her new position, Milton promotes earth-science policies and programs, including energy research studies, mineral assessment activities, geohazard investigations, geologic mapping at many scales, and other research in onshore and offshore geologic framework and processes. She is responsible for the training, safety and health of scientific and technical staff east of the Mississippi River. As the representative for the Chief Geologist in the 26-state Eastern Region, she serves as liaison to geoscience agencies in the eastern United States.

Milton was born in Salem, Oregon. She attended the University of California at Berkeley, received her bachelor of science degree in botany from Howard University (1973) and her doctorate in plant ecology from Johns Hopkins University (1981). She first joined the USGS in 1975 and her USGS work at that time included conducting and supervising geobotanical research to develop remote-sensing techniques involving the spectral reflectance of plants. These techniques are used in geological applications such as assessing mineral resources, finding new ore deposits and identifying sites that have been contaminated by heavy metals.

From 1989 to March 1992, Milton was a budget examiner in the Division of Energy and Science, Office of Management and Budget, in Washington, D.C. She analyzed the Department of Energy budget components associated with high-energy physics and nuclear physics, fusion research, basic energy sciences, biological and environmental sciences and supporting research and technical analyses.

Milton belongs to many professional societies, including the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Botanical Society of Washington, Geological Society of Washington, Association for Women Geoscientists, Virginia Academy of Sciences and the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing.

The USGS Geologic Division is responsible for assessing the nation's energy, land, and mineral resources and studying geologic features, processes and natural hazards through both field surveys and laboratory research.

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