

News Releases

DHEC News Release: DHEC Board selects new agency director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan. 25, 2012

DHEC Board selects new agency director

COLUMBIA, S.C. - The S.C. Board of Health and Environmental Control has completed its search for a new director to oversee the state's public health and environmental protection agency.

"We're pleased to announce Catherine Templeton as our selection to lead DHEC as Commissioner," DHEC Board chairman Allen Amsler said. "Over the last four months, the Board and its search committee have conducted a nationwide search, reviewed several hundred applications and conducted numerous interviews. We're quite certain Ms. Templeton has the background and skills to ably serve the people of our state as head of one of its most important agencies."

Amsler said Templeton would be presented to Gov. Nikki Haley's office for approval. If approved by Gov. Haley, Templeton will then be submitted to the S.C. Senate for advice and consent. In the meantime, the DHEC Board has named Bob King, DHEC's deputy commissioner of Environmental Quality Control, as acting Commissioner, effective Feb.1.

The selection of Templeton comes as current DHEC Commissioner Earl Hunter prepares to retire after more than 30 years with the agency, more than 10 of which have been spent in the agency's top post.

"The DHEC Board is committed to the success of the agency and to the employees who make it successful," Amsler said. "Anytime there is a change in leadership there is speculation about the future. I can assure all South Carolinians that DHEC's future will be one of continued success as we work to protect the environment and the health of the citizens of our great state."

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