

Bill Laxton, Chief Deputy Secretary

North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources

William G. Laxton was named chief deputy secretary of the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources in April 2007.

Laxton, a native of Bangor, Wis., came to North Carolina's lead environmental stewardship agency from the U.S. EPA, where since 1992 he served as director of administration and resource management of EPA's research facility in Research Triangle Park. During that time, he was responsible for the day-to-day operation of the 1.2 million square foot facility, including facility support, telecommunications and human resources services. He also was in charge of the design and construction of the EPA-RTP campus' nationally-recognized innovative and environmentally friendly green building, which opened in 2001. In 2003, in recognition of his leadership on this project — which enabled the EPA to incorporate its strategic environmental protection mission into its administrative functions — he received the Presidential Distinguished Rank Award in the Senior Executive Service.

Laxton started work at EPA's RTP campus in the mid-eighties. As the director of technical support in the Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards from 1987-1992, he managed national air quality modeling, monitoring, emission inventory, air trends and air data systems for the EPA, working with state air agencies. He also served as deputy director of administration and resource management from 1984-1987. He has also worked for the National Endowment for the Arts and in the Office of the Federal Inspector Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline.

Laxton received both master's and bachelor's degrees in philosophy from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

He and his wife Jane have three grown children and live in Raleigh.