

Speaker Biographies
Natural Resources Subcommittee Meeting
of the Select Committee on Efficiency in Government
April 9, 2012

John I. LaFave, Program Manager, Ground Water Assessment Program, Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology

John leads the program responsible for mapping of distribution and documentation of water quality and physical properties of the state's aquifers. He has worked for the Ground Water Assessment Program since 1993. He was previously a consulting hydrogeologist in St. Paul for 6 years. John has a B.S. in Geology from the University of Wisconsin and an M.A. in geology from the University of Texas. His professional interests are groundwater resource evaluation, groundwater geochemistry, isotope hydrology and groundwater age dating.

Warren McCullough, Chief, Environmental Management Bureau, Montana Department of Environmental Quality

Warren oversees the Metal Mine Reclamation Act and the Major Facility Siting Act. He started working for the state in 1995 as a Reclamation Specialist/ Exploration Geologist. Prior to that, he accumulated over 20 years of industry experience in mineral exploration, oil and gas exploration and production, and corporate management. He has a B.A. in Anthropology from Yale University, an M.S. in Economic Geology from Bowling Green State University, and has taken courses of study up to a year in length at the University of Edinburgh, University of Utah, Oklahoma State, and Montana Tech.

Mark Thompson, Environmental Superintendent, Barrick Golden Sunlight Mines

Mark earned a B.S. in Environmental Science and Biology from Stephen F. Austin State University in Texas and an M.S. in Environmental Engineering from Montana Tech. He has been employed with Barrick Golden Sunlight Mines in Whitehall Montana for 5 years. Mark is responsible for environmental compliance, permitting, reclamation and tailings operations. Prior to working at Barrick Golden Sunlight Mines, he worked for Teck at the Red Dog Mine in Alaska for 8 years and at Montana Resources in Butte, Montana for 4 years.