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## **Office of State Engineer Employee Receives Outstanding Service Award For GIS Work**

**(ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico)** – Office of the State Engineer employee **Gar Clarke** received the 2009 Green Chili Award for Outstanding Service from the New Mexico Geographic Information Council (NMGIC).

**Clarke** is an IT Business Analyst for the Office of the State Engineer. He has been with the agency for nine years. He is responsible for the leadership and coordination of the geospatial information technology program.

The New Mexico Geographic Information Council is an organization of geospatial professionals from throughout the state who are concerned with developing and accessing geographic information for New Mexico. Their spring workshop was Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at the Rotunda at the University of New Mexico Science and Technology Park. Clarke is the first recipient of the Green Chili Award for Outstanding Service, and was chosen to set the standard for future honorees in what qualifies as "outstanding service."

"I am not surprised that Gar is being recognized with this award, as he has served as a leader in the New Mexico geospatial community for many years. He has a passion for geospatial technology and a unique ability to work with people to use it for the common good," said Renee Martinez, Chief Information Officer of the Office of the State Engineer.

Among the geospatial endeavors Clarke has worked on for the state are leading the development of a Geospatial Strategic Plan and securing funding from numerous agencies to acquire imagery.

**(MORE)**

The Office of the State Engineer is charged with administering the state's water resources. The State Engineer has power over the supervision, measurement, appropriation, and distribution of all surface and groundwater in New Mexico, including streams and rivers that cross state boundaries. The State Engineer is also Secretary of the Interstate Stream Commission.

The Interstate Stream Commission is charged with separate duties including protecting New Mexico's right to water under eight interstate stream compacts, ensuring the state complies with each of those compacts, as well as water planning.

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