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NEWS RELEASE

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Utah Division of Water Quality Head Honored for Public Service

SALT LAKE CITY — The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) today honored Utah Division of Water Quality (DWQ) Director Walt Baker with the 2014 National Environmental State Public Service Award. The award honors Baker's outstanding public service and exemplary commitment to Utah's community and environment.

"Walt is a force for good in championing Utah's water issues," said Amanda Smith, Department of Environmental Quality executive director. "I commend Walt's leadership both within the DEQ and nationally, and join in congratulating him on being honored with this award."

During his 30 years at DWQ, Baker has initiated and chaired various stakeholder work groups to address Utah's water issues, such as nutrient pollution in Utah's waterways, rules governing septic tank systems that serve much of rural Utah, mercury pollution, and strategies to protect the Great Salt Lake's water quality. In addition, Baker has worked closely with publicly-owned wastewater systems in Utah on a number of different issues impacting local communities.

"We thank Walt for his service to the environment and the clean water community," said Ken Kirk, NACWA executive director. "His contributions to this industry have made a lasting impact."

Baker was appointed Division Director and Executive Secretary of the Utah Water Quality Board in May 2004. He has served as president of the Water Environment Association of Utah and the national Association of Clean Water Administrators. He currently serves on the Western States Water Council, the Utah Conservation Commission and the Utah Lake Commission.

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About DEQ

Established in 1991, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) mission is to safeguard public health and quality of life by protecting and enhancing the environment. DEQ implements state and federal environmental laws and works with individuals, community groups and businesses to protect the quality of Utah's air, land and water. For more information, visit www.deq.utah.gov, follow DEQ on Facebook ([newseq](https://www.facebook.com/newseq)) and Twitter ([@UTDEQ](https://twitter.com/UTDEQ)), or call 1-800-458-0145.