

## Secretary gives his agency new structure DEP

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Byline: BRIAN BOWLING

DAILY MAIL STAFF A new structure should help his agency gain the best of two competing management strategies, Environmental Protection Secretary **Mike Callaghan** said.

"The theory on it is top-down management and bottom-up management," he said.

From the top-down, the four new division directors have more autonomy and authority than the previous eight office chiefs, he said.

From the bottom-up, more non-policy decisions will be handled closer to the field, and everyone involved in a specific environmental issue - such as water quality - should be working together instead of pursuing separate agendas, he said.

"I think we just need to find a way for people to go about their business," he said.

The reorganization leaves four divisions - air quality, water resources, waste management and the mining and reclamation division.

Callaghan also placed several oddball programs such as oil and gas, aviation and abandoned mine lands directly under Randy Huffman, his assistant secretary. Bill Adams, his sole deputy secretary, is in charge of the legal division.

Environmental Advocate Pam Nixon still reports directly to Callaghan.

One long-time critic of the agency said more independent decisions would be a welcome change if it actually happens.

Norm Steenstra, executive director of the West Virginia Citizens Action Group, said it would be a major change if the agency just makes its own decisions instead of being run out of the governor's office.

"I guess you've got to wait and see. I sound jaded, but I've been through a lot of these (reorganizations)," he said.

On the other hand, Steenstra was excited about Callaghan's decision to hire a full-time scientific adviser - Dr. Dee Ann Staats, a pharmacology toxicologist.

"There has been a real need for an in-house scientist," Steenstra said. "That's what impresses me the most." Callaghan's decision to make the Office of Explosives and Blasting part of the mining and reclamation division, instead of an independent office, bothers him.

"To me, that office should be placed under the environmental advocate's office," he said.

The Legislature created the office to answer coalfield residents' belief that the DEP ignored their complaints about damage caused by blasting. The office oversees the blasting process including approving blasting plans and ensuring the pre-blast surveys are done to document any damage caused by the blasting.

Callaghan acknowledged that moving the office into the mining and reclamation division is controversial.

"We did think about that," he said. "I've got a new head of mining coming in, and he doesn't have any preconceived ideas." Callaghan has hired former DEP lawyer Matthew Crum, who has been a federal prosecutor working on environmental cases for the past three years, to run the mining and reclamation division.

If the arrangement doesn't work, he'll move the office to someplace else in the department, Callaghan added.

Writer Brian Bowling can be reached at 348-4842 or by e-mail at [brianbowling@dailymail.com](mailto:brianbowling@dailymail.com).