

New ADMA has wealth of AES experience



At the beginning of January, Howard Ferguson was appointed Assistant Deputy Minister of the Atmospheric Environment Service. He succeeded Jim Bruce who retired as Assistant Deputy Minister at the end of 1985.

Mr. Ferguson has served for more than 30 years with AES and its predecessor, the Meteorological Branch of the Department of Transport. During his career he has worked in all major components of the organization, starting out as meteorological officer/weather forecaster at RCAF Station Trenton in the 1950's. After obtaining his M.A. at the University of Toronto, Mr. Ferguson worked as a forecaster at Gander, Newfoundland for four and a half years.

Subsequently, he moved to Toronto and after a brief stint in the forecast office at the International Airport became an instructor in the Training Section where he taught applied meteorology.

In the late 1960's, he moved into hydrometeorology where he began to gain experience in bilateral and global programs through projects of the International Hydrological Decade and the

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International Field Year for the Great Lakes.

He served as a Division Chief in Hydrometeorology first in the Central Services Directorate and later in the Atmospheric Research Directorate.

In the late 1970's, Mr. Ferguson was asked to serve in Ottawa as Scientific Advisor to the new ADM, Dr. Collin. After two and a half years in that role, he was appointed Director of the Air Quality and Inter-Environmental Research Branch.

In 1980 he was invited to serve the Department as Regional Director General, Ontario Region for a four-month period and he again took on that role from 1982 to 1984. One of the major responsibilities of that position was the management of the Great Lakes Water Quality Program and co-chairmanship of the Great Lakes Water Quality Board under the International Joint Commission. At one point, Mr. Ferguson was at the same time also a member of the IJC's Air Quality Board, which he later co-chaired.

During the early 1980's, he served as Canadian co-chairman of one of the Technical Bilateral Working Groups under the Memorandum of Intent between Canada and U.S.A. on long range transport of air pollutants. He received a Public Service of Canada Merit Award for that work.

He has chaired technical Working Groups of WMO and UNESCO. For many years he provided post-graduate lectures at the University of Toronto and was a journal co-editor for the American Geophysical Union. As Mr. Ferguson says, he has served on "innumerable" interdepartmental and interdisciplinary committees.

In 1984, Mr. Ferguson was appointed Director General of the Canadian Climate Centre.

During his career Mr. Ferguson has found time to author or co-author more than 65 scientific publications. Besides contributing to various AES, WMO and UNESCO scientific series he has published in such journals as the Journal of Applied Meteorology, Meteorological Magazine, Atmosphere and the Bulletin of the International Association of Scientific Hydrology. His research reports have appeared in the published Proceedings of the International Association of Great Lakes Research and the American Water Resources Association. Mr. Ferguson has also contributed text and maps to the Hydrological Atlas of Canada and an article on acid rain in the Canadian Encyclopaedia.