Illinois State Geologist

Qualifications and Experience
Employee of the Illinois State Geological Survey with a master’s degree in geology or related discipline, such as geophysics, geochemistry, or hydrogeology; ten years of experience as scientific leader of successful multidisciplinary geoscience research programs in public service; extensive knowledge of the geology of Illinois; registered professional geologist with the State of Illinois.

Role and Responsibilities
Serves as the authoritative spokesperson on matters of geoscience fact for ISGS, the Prairie Research Institute, and the State of Illinois. Serves as the Illinois member of the Association of American State Geologists. Provides current information on research and scientific inquiries to the public at large, scientists, industry, and governmental agencies.

Related Resources
ISGS will support participation by the State Geologist in meetings and events of the American Association of State Geologists and other matters and activities requiring the involvement of the State Geologist.

History
Joseph G. Norwood was named the first Illinois State Geologist in 1851 and, historically, the director or chief of the Illinois State Geological Survey has been designated or referred to as the Illinois State Geologist. The position was reestablished by Public Act 98-0346 and signed into law by Governor Quinn on August 14, 2013. The Executive Director of the Prairie Research Institute appoints the State Geologist. Typically, the Director of the Survey is designated, unless he or she does not meet the qualifications, in which case, a senior research scientist is designated. The Director of ISGS is the current State Geologist. The list of State Geologists includes:

1. Joseph G. Norwood, PhD, 1851-1858
2. A. H. Worthen, 1858-1875, 1877-1888
3. Joshua Lindahl, 1888-1893
4. H. Foster Bain, PhD, 1905-1909
5. Frank W. Dewolf, 1909-1923
6. M. M. Leighton, PhD, 1923-1954
7. John C. Frye, PhD, 1954-1974
11. William W. Shilts, PhD, 1995-2008
12. E. Donald McKay III, PhD, 2008-present

12/4/13