

DOI Geospatial Information Officer named

Karen Siderelis, Associate Director for Geospatial Information and Chief Information Officer, USGS, has accepted an offer to serve as the Department of the Interior (DOI) Geospatial Information Officer (GIO). This position was created by Secretarial Order Number 3277 and signed by Secretary Kempthorne on August 1, 2008, for the purpose of enhancing DOI's geospatial leadership. Siderelis will report directly to the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget and will be responsible for coordinating geospatial activities and issues in the Department's bureaus and offices as well as facilitating DOI's many government-wide geospatial responsibilities.

Siderelis joined the USGS in 2000 as the Nation's first Geospatial Information Officer. Since that time she established the Geospatial Information Office (GIO) and led the USGS through a number of significant challenges and opportunities related to geospatial information, information technology (IT), and science information management.

While at the USGS, Siderelis provided executive oversight for a variety of important national geospatial activities. She oversaw award-winning initiatives associated with the President's Management Agenda, including the Geospatial One Stop project and the government-wide Geospatial Line of Business. She also served as executive sponsor of the Department's Geospatial Modernization Blueprint. Most recently she championed formation of the new National Geospatial Advisory Committee, creating a forum for non-Federal participation and advice on the activities of Federal geospatial programs.

As the first USGS Chief Information Officer, Siderelis set the strategic direction for and implemented a strong program of information resource management in the Bureau. Early in her tenure at the USGS, Siderelis successfully led efforts to ensure USGS scientists retained access to the Internet during the Cobell Lawsuit. Subsequently, she built and enhanced capabilities in IT investment management, IT security and privacy, and infrastructure. Her leadership in information policy influenced the establishment of the Bureau's Fundamental Science Practices policies as well as new directions in publishing, web activities, and the digital library. Following publication of the USGS Science Strategy, Siderelis led the development of the blueprint to address the Strategy's "Data Integration and Beyond" goal of creating an integrated information environment in the USGS.