

David E. Hess

Director of Policy & Communications Appointed: July 30, 2012
Crisci Associates Appointing Authority: President Pro Tempore of the Senate
Dauphin County Term Expires: January 17, 2017
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Education

Masters degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Illinois
Bachelors degree in Urban Studies from Shippensburg University

Mr. Hess is currently the Director of Policy & Communications with Crisci Associates, a Harrisburg-based government affairs firm whose clients include Fortune 500 companies and nonprofit groups.

Prior to joining Crisci Associates, Mr. Hess served as Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. Appointed by Gov. Tom Ridge in 2001 he also served under Gov. Mark Schweiker until 2003. During his tenure as Secretary and a senior manager at DEP, the agency won more national and international awards for innovation than any other state agency in the country. The awards involved innovations in communications and public involvement, restoring brownfield industrial sites, using the Internet and information technology in unique ways, and watershed and water resource protection.

He also helped guide the successful rescue of nine miners trapped in the Quecreek Mine in Somerset, Pennsylvania in 2002 and the environmental response to the crash of Flight 93 on September 11, 2001.

Taking a "hands-on" approach as Secretary, he visited every one of the 67 counties at least twice in the 21 months he was Secretary to spotlight watershed groups, farmers, businesses, local governments, teachers and students taking positive actions to protect and restore Pennsylvania's environment.

During his tenure he led a review and reform of all the agency's policies and regulations including the development of the online eFACTS environmental compliance and permit reporting system that made this information readily available to the public for the first time, DEP's website, the Environmental Protection Update newsletter and other strategies to help involve the public in agency policy and regulatory development, promotion of the stakeholder approach to develop clean air, waste, stream protection and other initiatives; developed with partners, the GreenWorks for Pennsylvania TV program and online video website to promote positive examples of people working to clean up the environment.

Prior to becoming Executive Deputy at DEP, Mr. Hess served as Executive Director of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee for six years starting in January 1989. During that time he was responsible for developing and analyzing legislation before the Committee, helping move legislation through the process and for keeping the Committee informed on environmental issues.

Before coming to the Senate, he worked in a variety of positions at the Department of Environmental Resources over a 12-year period, including in the Secretary's Office of Policy, as Deputy Director for Regulatory Analysis and as Legislative Liaison for the agency.

Mr. Hess received the "River Hero" Award in 2002 from the national Rivers Network, the James McGirr Kelly Award for Excellence from the National Association of Water Companies-PA Chapter for his work on watershed and water resource issues and was recognized for his contributions to promoting education and environmental initiatives by the Pennsylvania Alliance for Environmental Education, Pennsylvania Environmental Council and the Pennsylvania Resources Council.

He serves on the Board of several nonprofit groups including Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, Pennsylvania Resources Council, Pennsylvania Land Trust Association, the Ralph W. Abele Conservation Scholarship Fund and the Quecreek Mine Rescue Foundation Advisory Committee.