

Gordon To Head Health Association

SANTA FE - Larry J. Gordon, Deputy Secretary of the New Mexico Health and Environment Department, recently assumed his duties as President of the 50,000-member American Public Health Association.

As President, Gordon will testify before Congress on the association's legislative priorities, which include funding for a hazardous waste disposal program and proposed amendments to the federal Clean Air Act.

Gordon said the APHA favors the Senate version of hazardous waste legislation that would make industry responsible for cleaning up the waste and would establish funding to care for victims of disposal sites. He pointed out that Congress next year will consider amendments to the Clean Act that would water down such standards as "prevention of significant deterioration." This proposal would threaten the pristine air quality New Mexico citizens have always enjoyed."

Gordon began his public health career in New Mexico 30 years ago when he joined the then New Mexico Department of Public Health.

In 1955, he created and administered the nation's first local comprehensive environmental Health Department as Director of the Albuquerque Environmental Health Department.

In 1968, he returned to state government as Director of the Environmental Services Division. He was responsible for organizing the Environmental Improvement Agency and the State Scientific Laboratory in Albuquerque. He served as Administrator for Health and Environmental programs for the state in 1976-77, and assumed his present duties in 1978.

Gordon holds a master of science degree from the University of New Mexico and a master of public health degree from the University of Michigan.



Larry J. Gordon