



THE WOODS HOLE RESEARCH CENTER

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R. A. Houghton to Serve as Acting Director of Woods Hole Research Center

Dr. R. A. Houghton, Deputy Director and Senior Scientist at the Woods Hole Research Center, has agreed to serve as Acting Director of WHRC, effective immediately. Dr. William Y. Brown, who had served as President and CEO since February 2010, announced his resignation on Monday, January 10.

Lawrence Huntington, chairman of the WHRC Board of Directors, said, "We are pleased that Dr. Houghton has agreed to step into this role. His knowledge of the institution, as well as his stature as a world authority on the carbon cycle, makes him an outstanding leader of the Center."

Houghton previously served as Acting Director of WHRC from January 2009 until February 2010, when John P. Holdren accepted the opportunity to serve as director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy in the Executive Office of the President and Assistant to the President for Science and Technology in the Obama Administration.

Brown leaves WHRC in order to join his family in Washington D. C.

The Board of Directors will convene a search committee in order to begin the process of identifying candidates for the directorship.

Houghton, who has been with WHRC since 1987, is an ecologist with interests in the role that terrestrial ecosystems play in climate change and the global carbon cycle. He coordinates the Center's efforts to understand the problems of global warming and climate change, especially the role biotic systems play in this accelerating process. Dr. Houghton has held positions as Assistant Scientist at the Ecosystems Center of the Marine Biological Laboratory and as Research Associate at Brookhaven National Laboratory. He earned his doctorate in ecology from SUNY at Stony Brook.

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