

Charles E. Chapin, New Mexico State Geologist from 1991 to 1999



Chuck Chapin, who was the New Mexico State Geologist and directed the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources from 1991–1999, passed away peacefully at his home in Albuquerque on March 14, 2024. He was 91. Chuck, who grew up in Washington State and trained at Colorado School of Mines, began his career at New Mexico Tech in 1965. He joined the Bureau of Geology from the NMT Geoscience Department in 1970. He was a visionary, creative, and insightful geoscientist who shaped our thinking about Laramide tectonics, Cenozoic

volcanism, and the Rio Grande rift in New Mexico. Chuck was a strong mentor and, during his career, provided valuable instruction and encouragement to many graduate students and staff members at the Bureau of Geology. He was a kind person with a good sense of humor who was unafraid to speak his mind. He is missed.