

Perry B. Wigley (1941–2003), 7th State Geologist of Nebraska

Dr. Perry B. Wigley, former Director of the Conservation and Survey Division and State Geologist of Nebraska from 1987 to 1998, died on December 23, 2003. He was 62 years old.

Dr. Wigley was born January 24, 1941. He was a native of Alabama and received his bachelor's degree from Birmingham-Southern College in 1963. He received his Master's degree in 1965 and his Ph.D. in 1968 from Virginia Polytechnic Institute. He had a long and distinguished career as a geologist in industry and academia. His posts included assistant state geologist of Georgia, professor of geology at Eastern Kentucky University, and exploration manager-onshore North America with Texas Eastern Exploration Company in Houston before becoming the director of the Conservation and Survey Division at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He retired from that position in 1998 to join the Conservation and Survey Division faculty as a research geologist.



During his tenure as state geologist he worked with other state geologists to help draft legislation for the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992, which was subsequently passed into law and continues to this day.

Dr. Wigley became an advocate for the Americans with Disabilities Act after he began to use a wheelchair in 1994 after back surgery. He formed his own business to help hotels better serve people with disabilities. For his efforts, he was honored by Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital as a recipient of the 1999 Chairman's GOAL Award.

He is survived by his wife, Juanita Landrum Wigley and three daughters.