

## Dennis Szarka, 2019 Green Chile Outstanding Service Award



Dennis Szarka was born in Calgary Alberta, Canada where he met his wife Sylvia and had their 2 sons Sean and Chris. After trying his hand at several career paths, he was hired by Mach Air and quickly changed his studies from architectural design to cartography at The Southern Albert Institute of Technology. At Mach Air he started his mapping career and work at drafting, stereo compiling, processing film and photos and even spent a very long summer in the back of a plane as a camera operator photographing the Mackenzie River from Yellowknife to the Beaufort Sea in the Northwest Territories.

After 26 cold winters in Calgary the family moved to Vancouver, British Columbia where Dennis worked for an engineering company but eventually landed a position with BC Hydro, one of the largest utility companies in Canada. For the next 18 years he spent traveling the vast expanses of the province surveying and mapping dam sites, transmission corridors, substations and even glacial field for water storage studies. In those 18 years he continued his studies, first at British Columbia Institute of Technology studying GIS and finally finishing it all at the University of Simon Fraser.

In 1995 Sylvia and Dennis moved to the southern interior of BC and became a consultant for the BC Ministry of Forest and various forestry companies reviewing and preparing timber cutting and reforestation plans.

In 2000 he took a position with a surveying and mapping company out of Austin, TX as a Project Manager for the mapping side of the company.

In 2003 they were convinced to move to New Mexico to take a position with Bohannon Huston where he became a Project Manager and eventually move into business development for The Photogrammetry Department.

In 2013 he tried a short stint at retirement but was eventually convinced to come out of retirement and work for Dallas Aerial Surveys, Inc. where is the Production and Project Manager.