

**For Immediate Release
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Obama appoints Jacqueline Richter-Menge to the US Arctic Research Commission

Washington, DC - President Obama has named engineer Ms. Jacqueline A. Richter-Menge, research civil engineer at the US Army Corps of Engineers Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL) in Hanover, NH, to a four-year term on the US Arctic Research Commission (USARC). The USARC is an independent federal agency that advises the President and Congress.

Richter-Menge replaces Charles Vörösmarty, Director, City University of New York Environmental Cross-Roads Initiative at the City College of New York, who has served on the USARC for eight years. Vörösmarty's varied academic and research interests, especially related to earth systems science and terrestrial water, contributed significantly to the work of the Commission.

The Honorable Fran Ulmer, the presidentially designated Chair of the USARC, endorses Richter-Menge's selection, saying, "I am grateful that President Obama has appointed an outstanding scientist to join USARC. She has many years of experience doing research in the Arctic focused on solving problems with innovative solutions, which will be a great benefit to our work."

Richter-Menge is an expert in Arctic sea ice, who has made fundamental contributions to our understanding of the mechanical and physical properties of ice, from both laboratory and field experiments. She has led or participated in over 15 field programs to the Arctic, and formerly served as Chief, Snow and Ice Branch at CRREL. Her work improves projections of sea ice in support of near-real-time operations and on longer timescales.

Richter-Menge has been instrumental in the SCience ICe EXercise (SCICEX) program, a collaboration between the US Navy and the marine research community to use nuclear-powered submarines to study the Arctic Ocean. She chairs the program's Science Advisory Committee.

For many years, Richter-Menge was either a lead author, or a co-author of the annual "The State of the Arctic Report" (now titled "Arctic Report Card") for NOAA that summarizes and presents the most recent observations collected by the international community on the Arctic environment.

About her appointment, Richter-Menge said, "I am excited to join this impressive group in developing, promoting and supporting the US Arctic research plan."

The USARC's mission is to develop and recommend US Arctic research policy to the President and Congress and to build cooperative links in Arctic research within the federal government, with Arctic residents, the State of Alaska, researchers, and international partners. Visit the USARC at www.arctic.gov and subscribe to our daily electronic newsletter, the "[Arctic Update](#)," which provides useful information about recent events, upcoming conferences, research initiatives, and news.

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