




United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, D.C. 20240

Sent via email

MEMORANDUM

To: President's Management Council

From: Anne J. Castle  AUG 1 - 2011
Chair, Federal Geographic Data Committee
Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, U.S. Department of the Interior

Subject: Federal Geographic Data Committee -- Designation of Senior Agency Official for Geospatial Information

I am writing to you in my capacity as Chair of the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC). The FGDC is an interagency committee that promotes the coordinated development, use, sharing, and dissemination of geospatial data on a national basis. The FGDC provides leadership and facilitates coordination between agencies, governments, academia, industry and professional organizations in developing geographic information and technology critical to managing the nation. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) established the FGDC through OMB Circular A-16, "Coordination of Geographic Information and Related Spatial Data Activities." Executive Order 12906 (Clinton, 1994) assigns responsibility for the implementation of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) to the FGDC. These coordination activities are facilitated by the FGDC Secretariat, hosted within the U.S. Geological Survey. The work of the FGDC is particularly important in today's era of difficult budgets to ensure that geospatial data systems and efforts are well coordinated and non-duplicative.

FGDC Steering Committee Meeting

The FGDC Steering Committee held its initial 2011 meeting on Tuesday, June 7 in Washington, D.C. Information about the meeting is posted at: <http://www.fgdc.gov/participation/steering-committee/meeting-minutes/june-2011/index.html>. The next Steering Committee meeting is being planned for October 2011.

FGDC Steering Committee Membership – Response Requested

OMB Memorandum M-06-07, "Designation of a Senior Agency Official for Geospatial Information," asks agencies to designate a Senior Agency Official for Geospatial Information (SAOGI) to oversee, coordinate, and facilitate the agency's implementation of the geospatial-related requirements, policies, and activities. Generally, the SAOGI should be at the Assistant Secretary or Chief Information Officer level. The SAOGI serves as the agency's representative on the FGDC Steering Committee.