



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Washington, D.C. 20240

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To: Anne Hale Miglarese  
Chair, National Geospatial Advisory Committee

From: Karen Siderelis *KS*  
Acting Chair, Federal Geographic Data Committee

Subject: FGDC Executive Committee Guidance to  
National Geospatial Advisory Committee

This message is to provide guidance to the NGAC, on behalf of the FGDC Executive Committee, regarding the roles and expectations for NGAC support related to the development of a National Geospatial Policy and Strategy.

We appreciate the thoughtful analysis and recommendations that the NGAC has provided over the past year on key geospatial topics. The Committee has proven to be a valuable source of advice and feedback for the FGDC. We look forward to continued constructive engagement with the NGAC as we work toward a new National Geospatial Policy.

As you know, at the May 2009 meeting of the NGAC, the committee held an extended discussion of the National Geospatial Policy concept. The discussion included a presentation from Dan Cotter of DHS, a panel discussion with members of the FGDC Executive Committee, and small group discussions on several different aspects of geospatial policies. The NGAC also had a dialogue with Vivek Kundra, the Federal CIO, on his vision for geospatial programs and the Administration's information technology initiatives. At the meeting, the NGAC agreed on the following actions related to the development of a National Geospatial Policy:

**ACTION:** FGDC staff will compile and summarize notes from NGAC sessions on 1) Potential scope/content of National Geospatial Policy/Strategy, and 2) Potential roles of NGAC in supporting development of National Geospatial Policy/Strategy. NGAC members will prioritize possible actions identified during discussion sessions.

**ACTION:** DFO and FGDC Executive Committee will review NGAC feedback and provide guidance to NGAC on roles/expectations for NGAC support in development of National Geospatial Policy/Strategy.

**ACTION:** FGDC staff will initiate discussion forum on NGAC wiki site regarding Executive Order 12906. The forum will allow NGAC members to provide comments and suggestions on potential revisions to E.O. 12906.

In response to the first and third actions listed above, the FGDC Secretariat 1) organized a poll of NGAC members to prioritize the topics identified at the meeting, and 2) posted a discussion topic on the NGAC

Wiki site to help identify potential changes to Executive Order 12906. In addition, the Executive Committee has met and considered the feedback and suggestions from the NGAC. Members of the Executive Committee have also had a series of discussions with OMB officials and other senior officials regarding Administration priorities, geospatial programs, and related priorities.

Based upon these follow-up activities, the Executive Committee has identified several key issues related to National geospatial policy for the NGAC to address over the coming months:

1. **Benefits of a National Geospatial Policy.** Define and describe the tangible impacts that would result from the development and implementation of a new National Geospatial Policy. What would a working, completed National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) look like? What would the NSDI of the future look like? What new economic activities, cost savings, capability enhancements, or other benefits would result from a new policy? As an example, if statutory language pertaining to non-sensitive address data in Title 13 U.S. Code were modified as NGAC has proposed, what new opportunities or improvements are likely to result?
2. **Governance/Management.** FGDC will enhance and bolster the current geospatial governance structure that we now have in place to ensure effective management, oversight, and performance of Federal geospatial programs. What recommendations would the NGAC have to ensure more effective oversight of Federal geospatial programs and implementation of existing statutes and policies? What key metrics would NGAC envision for Federal geospatial programs?
3. **National Geospatial Forum.** The FGDC is planning to organize a “National Geospatial Forum,” using social media and Web 2.0 technology, to garner input from a broad audience to seek out the best ideas for enhancing the National Spatial Data Infrastructure. The Forum will build upon the previous National GeoData Forum and engage the nation in a dialog about its geospatial future. We would like the NGAC’s assistance in conceptualizing, planning, and participating in the Forum.
4. **Cloud Computing.** As Mr. Kundra discussed at the May NGAC meeting, cloud computing approaches will be an important and growing component of Federal architecture and programs. We would like the NGAC’s feedback and suggestions on approaches, examples, and opportunities to leverage cloud computing technology as a component of a new National Geospatial Policy and its implementation. In addition, we would like feedback and suggestions, as appropriate, on other technology advances that should be considered for further research.

We look forward to discussing this guidance in greater detail at the August 2009 NGAC meeting, and we look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with NGAC members to achieve our common goals.

cc: FGDC Executive Committee