

Geospatial Data Act Overview



**National Geospatial Advisory Committee Meeting
December 6, 2018**

Geospatial Data Act of 2018

- ❖ [Geospatial Data Act](#) signed/enacted October 5, 2018
- ❖ Codifies FGDC roles/responsibilities
- ❖ Codifies National Geospatial Advisory Committee
- ❖ Establishes requirements for:
 - National Spatial Data Infrastructure & NSDI strategic plan
 - National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA) Data Themes
 - Geospatial Data Standards
 - GeoPlatform
 - Covered Agency planning and reporting requirements

Initial Activities

- FGDC Steering Committee Meeting (Oct 2018)
- Coordination with FGDC Leadership/OMB
- Dialogue with CIO Council, Federal Data Strategy team, etc.
- Establishment of GDA Tiger Team
- GDA Workshop
- Initial analysis of GDA
- Engagement with NGAC / partner organizations

FGDC GDA Tiger Team

Membership

- Representatives from Covered Agencies, FGDC leadership/Secretariat, OMB

Scope

- Initiate initial analysis of GDA and identify impacts and requirements
- Determine approach, project timeline, and meeting schedule to complete GDA analysis and implementation strategy

Deliverables

- Initial GDA strategic analysis
- GDA implementation strategy

GDA Workshop, Nov. 14-15

Workshop Purpose:

- Establish the Tiger Team – structure, roles, responsibilities, expectations, timeline
- Initiate analysis of GDA and identify impacts and implications
- Determine approach, project timeline, and meeting schedule to complete GDA analysis and implementation strategy
- Assign leads and work groups
- Discuss communications strategy and documentation

GDA Work Groups

Governance/Organization (Secs 753, 754)

- LEAD: Nancy Blyler (DOD/USACE) – Review FGDC/NGAC governance and organization

Data, Standards, and Delivery (Secs 755, 756, 757, 758)

- LEAD: Bill Mullen (NGA) – Review NSDI, NGDA, Standards, and GeoPlatform requirements

Covered Agencies/Reporting (Secs 759, 759A)

- LEAD: Tony LaVoi (NOAA) – Review covered agency requirements and GDA planning/reporting responsibilities

Communication/Outreach

- LEAD: Pam Isom (DOE) – Develop communications & outreach strategy

Sec. 754. National Geospatial Advisory Committee

Section Summary

This section codifies the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) and includes language specifying that the NGAC would be administered in DOI. Similar to its current charge, the NGAC will continue providing advice and recommendations to the chairperson of the FGDC relating to the management of federal and national geospatial programs, the development of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI), and other activities relating to the implementation of this subtitle. The NGAC is also required to review and comment on geospatial policy and management issues and ensure that the views of representatives of non-federal interested parties involved in national geospatial activities are conveyed to the FGDC.

Sec. 754. National Geospatial Advisory Committee

❖ Consistent with Current Practice

- Advisory Committee sponsored & managed by DOI
- NGAC chair appointed by FGDC chair
- Membership composition, criteria, & terms of appointment
- Current ethics requirements apply to NGAC members
- Subcommittees may be established to develop draft products
- 1-4 Public Meetings per year
- Duties primarily the same (with addition of GDA implementation)
- No compensation of members, travel expenses covered
- Staff support provided by FGDC Secretariat
- FACA rules apply to NGAC, except as otherwise stated in GDA

Sec. 754. National Geospatial Advisory Committee

❖ Key Changes

- GDA establishes NGAC as statutory advisory committee
- Standing membership from NGA specified
- Adds “licensed geospatial data acquisition professionals” to list of potential membership groups
- Specifies 1/3 of membership appointments expire each year
- NGAC Chair responsible for subcommittee appointments
- NGAC Chair and DFO jointly responsible for subcommittee direction
- NGAC meetings to be called by Chair, instead of DFO
- Changes quorum from 2/3rds to majority
- Adds *advice on implementation of GDA* to list of NGAC duties
- Enables NGAC to request information directly from agencies with concurrence of FGDC Chair (and requires agencies to furnish such information). Also requires NGAC to report on non-compliance.
- New language regarding termination & continuation of NGAC

Sec. 754. National Geospatial Advisory Committee

❖ Critical Topics/Actions

- Various changes to NGAC responsibilities will require updates to NGAC charter & operating procedures
- Need to develop guidelines/process for potential NGAC requests to agencies as described in GDA
- Need guidance on applicability of FACA compared to requirements of GDA
- Additional NGAC review & comment responsibilities included in Sec. 753 (Federal Geographic Data Committee)

GDA Workshop - Sec. 754 Actions (NGAC)

- Need legal guidance on issues where GDA authorities for NGAC depart from standard Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) practices.
- Need to update NGAC charter and operating procedures to reflect GDA requirements.
- Need to develop a process for NGAC to request information from covered agencies. Needs to be a thoughtful process, not an ad hoc approach.
- Potential NGAC study topic (or question for an Industry Day): How can we automate the reporting processes detailed in the GDA?

Initial NGAC Role – Ideas for Discussion

- Establish short-term action team of returning members to initiate NGAC review/discussion (will establish longer-term subcommittee(s) when new NGAC members appointed).
- Potential topics:
 1. Review GDA Tiger Team analysis – provide additional comments/additions
 2. GDA NGAC section – provide comments/suggestions on implementation
 3. Communications/Outreach – Provide suggestions on how to engage geo community in GDA implementation