



**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503**

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M-06-07

MEMORANDUM FOR HEADS OF SELECTED EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

FROM: Clay Johnson III
Deputy Director for Management

SUBJECT: Designation of a Senior Agency Official for Geospatial Information

To assist agencies and ensure consistency across the government, OMB is asking selected executive departments and agencies (see Attachment A for selected departments and agencies) to designate a senior agency official who has agency-wide responsibility, accountability, and authority for geospatial information issues. Over the past several years, Federal agencies have better coordinated the government's geospatial investments across agencies and with State, local, and tribal governments. However, much work remains to identify and optimize Federal government investments. Through further coordination, we will maximize our buying and maintaining of geospatial investments instead of independently investing in potentially duplicative and costly data and capabilities.

Geospatial information (information associated with a specific geographic location) supports many missions including national security, law enforcement, health care, the environment, and natural resources conservation. Examples of geospatial information include maps, satellite imagery, and census and housing data as well as information identified by a region or jurisdiction an agency may make available to other agencies, the public, or Congress.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has issued several policies relating to geospatial data, standards, and investments, including OMB Circulars A-11, A-16, A-119, and A-130. In addition, Executive Order 12906 and the E-Government Act of 2002, section 216 (Common Protocols for Geographic Information Systems), contain geospatial-related requirements. Some agencies have successfully implemented these policies by designating one agency official to be responsible and accountable for geospatial activities and investments. The Chief Information Officer may already perform this role in your agency. Alternatively, you may designate another senior official (at the Assistant Secretary or equivalent level) for this role.

The senior agency official will oversee, coordinate, and facilitate the agency's implementation of the geospatial-related requirements, policies, and activities noted above. While these activities may be undertaken by various components of an agency, OMB will look to the senior agency official for information regarding the agency's coordination of these activities.

Agencies responsible for spatial data themes are already required to be members of the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) pursuant to OMB Circular A-16.¹ As a result of the senior agency official's responsibility for internal coordination and implementation of geospatial-related initiatives and activities, the senior agency official will also serve as the policy-level official to represent each selected agency on the FGDC Steering Committee.

Please send your designations for the senior agency official within 45 days of the date of this memorandum to Stacie Boyd, Government-to-Government Portfolio Manager, Office of E-Government and Information Technology, at Stacie_Boyd@omb.eop.gov or (202) 395-0342 (fax). Please provide the official's name, title, and contact information (phone number and email address). Ms. Boyd can also answer any questions your agency may have about this memorandum at (202) 395-0346.

Attachment

¹Data themes are defined in OMB Circular A-16, Coordination of Geographic Information and Related Spatial Data Activities, as electronic records and coordinates for a topic or subject. Examples of data themes include cultural and demographic statistics, housing, and transportation.

Attachment A – Selected Executive Departments and Agencies that Produce, Maintain, or Use Geospatial Information

Department of Agriculture
Department of Commerce
Department of Defense
Department of Education
Department of Energy
Department of Health and Human Services
Department of Homeland Security
Department of Housing and Urban Development
Department of the Interior
Department of Justice
Department of Labor
Department of State
Department of Transportation
Department of Treasury
Department of Veterans Affairs
Environmental Protection Agency
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Social Security Administration
Agency for International Development
General Services Administration
National Archives and Records Administration
National Science Foundation
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Personnel Management
Small Business Administration
Smithsonian Institution
Tennessee Valley Authority