

## National Boundaries Group Charter

(June, 2013)

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### BACKGROUND

The National Boundaries Group (NBG) began in October of 2011 in order to re-examine the veracity of U.S. boundaries. It consists of professionals that have been part of many federal efforts leading toward nationally important A-16 data sets including but not limited to state, county, maritime, international, federal land, and tribal areas. People and programs across the country view and use these boundaries.

### PURPOSE

The purpose of the NBG is to develop nationally consistent boundaries that are integrated using the same geographic base. The goal is to make sure federal boundary sources are consistent, accurate, and integrated.

### AUTHORITIES

Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) Working Groups are chartered under the FGDC Steering Committee and coordinated by the FGDC Secretariat which are granted authority through the Office of Management & Budget (OMB) Circular A-16, Executive Order 12906 and the E-Government Act of 2002. In addition, the activities of the NBG Subcommittee are in accordance with OMB circulars A-16, A-119, A-130, and Homeland Security Presidential Directives (HSPD) 7 and 8.

### SCOPE

The NBG will coordinate boundary information sharing among federal, state, local, tribal, and private organizations. In scope are the following goals:

- Creating an open exchange of information about boundary data with federal, state, tribal and local governments, and private organizations.
- Assuring availability of, and public access to, boundary data and associated metadata from distributed databases.
- Investigating, evaluating, promoting, and implementing new technologies to improve boundary accuracy; data acquisition, processing, and access; maintenance strategies; and derivative products.
- Supporting coordination and standards goals, and objectives established by federal, national and international standards

organizations such as the FGDC, the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI), American National Standards Institute (ANSI), and the International Organization of Standardization (ISO).

## **OBJECTIVES**

It is important that current boundary data sets are available and accessible to federal agencies to meet mission and project objectives. Federal agencies typically develop or need boundary data on a relatively set schedule every year. The NBG can assist more efficient sharing and use of boundary information through the development of a time relevant “supply network” that demonstrates when agencies need data or when agencies update their boundary data. The group recognizes the importance of these boundary data sets, and is working to facilitate the improvement of these boundaries so that they are as consistent, compatible, accurate, and as available as possible. More specific objectives are as follows:

- Identification of the national authoritative sources and national authoritative integrators for boundary data including but not limited to state lines, county lines, maritime boundaries, international boundaries, federal land boundaries, and tribal areas
- Application of enterprise supply/value chain principles. Who collects what? When is the data needed?
- Identification and development of boundary standards including recommendations for legal documentation
- Identification of boundary data used by each agency including it’s current status, quality, and availability
- Coordinating boundary data with the FGDC A-16 and Data Life Cycle efforts
- Creation of an authoritative coastline dataset of the U.S.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

The NBG shall consist of representatives designated by those federal agencies, which as part of their mission, collect or finance the collection of boundary data, and those federal agencies that are legislatively mandated to directly apply these data in support of their missions.

Each member agency of the NBG shall designate its representatives, alternates if desired, and changes thereto, to the NBG Co-Chairs.

In addition, any federal staff may participate in the meeting and discussions, but their participation is limited to a non-decision making role.

Non-profit organizations representing state, local, regional and tribal governments may be added with the consensus of NBG representatives. Although non-federal participants may engage in NBG discussions and offer information and opinions, their participation is limited to a non-decision making role.

### **CO-CHAIRS**

The Co-Chairs shall be designated from U.S. Census Bureau (BOC) and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) representatives. The role of the Co-Chairs is to provide leadership, direction, and coordination.

### **PROCEDURES**

NBG meetings shall be held at the call of the NBG Co-Chairs and shall be conducted at least quarterly. Meetings may be held virtually or in person. Agenda items will be coordinated with other working group members, as well as with state and local partners. Decisions shall be on the basis of consensus agreement among the NBG.

### **COORDINATION RESPONSIBILITIES**

The NBG will employ tools best suited to meet its responsibilities, such as meetings, national user forums, annual research initiatives, and cooperative venues. The Co-Chairs will coordinate the Working Group activities with other Subcommittees, Working Groups, the FGDC Coordination Group and appropriate venues relevant to accomplishing key activities and effectively growing the geospatial community.

### **REPORTS**

The NBG shall develop an annual plan consisting of goals and objectives and provide it to the FGDC Coordination Group and FGDC Secretariat. The NBG will also develop an annual summary of accomplishments. All progress documented as a result of Working Group activities shall be submitted to the FGDC Coordination Group and the FGDC Secretariat.

### **APPROVALS**

This Charter shall remain in effect until amended or replaced or until terminated by the FGDC Steering Committee. This Charter will be posted on the FGDC website at [www.fgdc.gov](http://www.fgdc.gov).

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FGDC Chair & Date

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FGDC Vice-Chair & Date

Federal Geographic Data Committee

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