Part B - 6
LEAD AGENCY/BUREAU AND/OR SUBCOMMITTEE/WORKING GROUP REPORT (Agencies with Lead Responsibilities Assigned under the new Circular A-16 in Appendix E -
http://www.fgdc.gov/publications/a16final.html#appendixe) (Please provide a separate report for each activity for which you have the lead)

1. Program/Activity Name: Governmental Units

2. What are the specific federal programs this data supports?

   Censuses and surveys conducted by the Census Bureau are inextricably dependent upon governmental unit boundary data. Governmental unit data supports the majority of data activities, any data collection or tabulation by the federal government based upon geographic units.

3. Uses of Data: How does your data benefit customers and support agency missions?

   Governmental unit boundary data provides the framework by which most statistical data are collected and to which they are tabulated. Through establishing a consistent way to collect and interchange governmental unit boundary data and facilitate their maintenance, analysis, and comparison, the governmental units theme supports the majority of federal, state, local, academic and private-vendor geographic statistical programs.

4. Charter/Plan: Do you have a current charter or plan for collection? If so - please describe (include how recently the charter/plan was implemented and whether it is in need of update).

   The Census Bureau has collected and maintained boundary information for over 50 years, and the collection plans are under continuous review and improvement.   The Census Bureau utilizes state, local, and tribal information when updating boundaries.

5. Metadata Status: Is metadata discoverable and served through the NSDI Clearinghouse? What percentage of this theme's data has metadata and is in a Clearinghouse node?

   Until recently, the Census Bureau has forwarded its metadata to the USGS for maintenance on their Clearinghouse node. Census Bureau metadata, including governmental unit boundary file metadata, is now available on the US Census Bureau node, accessible through the NSDI Clearinghouse.

6. Standards: What is the status of this theme's data, process, transfer, and classification standards?

   The draft Governmental Units Framework Data Exchange Standard has been publicly available for review and comment since June 2002, and has undergone two formal public review and comment cycles since. Comments made on the draft standard have been adjudicated by committee and incorporated into the document where applicable. The draft standard is now being harmonized in conjunction with the other Geospatial One-Stop theme standards and will be sent as a set of standards to ANSI/INCITS L1 for review and comment September 30, 2003.

7. Progress: List FY 2002/2003 activities/progress to date (quantify where possible).

   The draft Governmental Unit Boundary Data Content Standard has been presented at the Subcommittee on Cultural and Demographic Data in June 2002, the NACo and ESRI Conferences in July 2002, and at several state-based conferences. The draft Governmental Unit Boundary Data Exchange Standard has been available for review and comment since the progress report made at June 2002 and in that time the standard has undergone two formal review cycles. All comments were adjudicated by committee and incorporated into the document where applicable. Currently, work on the standard is focused on harmonization efforts with the other Geospatial One-Stop standards to produce a usable set of theme standards.

8. Policy: Do you have a formal agency policy in place for full and open access or data sharing? Are you able to fulfill this policy and provide public access with your current agency financial resources as allocated or are you in pursuit of collaborative federal partnerships to support data access?

   Governmental Units, including its related metadata, are included as components in the vast collection of data products produced by the Census Bureau that are available to the public. The Census Bureau provides updated governmental unit boundaries directly as part of its TIGER/Line file data, released each year after incorporating the updated information obtained through the Boundary and Annexation Survey. Boundary data also will be made available through the National Map program of the USGS and through the Geospatial One-Stop portal initiative.

9. Are there areas or issues regarding lead responsibilities for spatial data themes that require attention, or lessons-learned that you would like to share with others? Please describe.

   None at this time.