

2/27/04

**MEMORANDUM**

SUBJECT: Global Positioning Systems- Technical Implementation Guidance

FROM: Mark Luttner /s/  
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Office of Environmental Information

TO: Senior Information Resource Managers  
Regional Information Resource Management Branch Chiefs  
Beneficiaries of Global Positioning Systems

Global Positioning System (GPS) technology has become ubiquitous in our daily lives. EPA's use of GPS is rapidly expanding and is increasingly fundamental to acquiring accurate locational data, to developing geospatial applications, and as a tool for Quality Assurance (QA). By increasing the efficiency and accuracy by which we can determine locations, GPS helps EPA make better decisions for protecting human health and safeguarding the environment.

In recognition of the importance of Geospatial Data, Executive Order 12906 was established that calls for the establishment of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). The NSDI is defined as the technologies, policies, and people necessary to promote sharing of geospatial data throughout all levels of government, the private and non-profit sectors, and the academic community. Establishing guidance on GPS technology, while not described in the policy, is an important part of the overall effort to support the NSDI.

In an effort to harmonize the approach used by our programs, regions, state partners, and contractors in collecting GPS data, the Office of Information Collection (OIC) assisted the EPA Geospatial Quality Council in developing the Global Positioning Systems- Technical Implementation Guidance (GPS-TIG) document. The GPS-TIG will assist all stakeholders in complying with the EPA Locational Data Policy and with implementing the Latitude/Longitude Data Standard. This document also provides guidance for the development of consistent Standard Operating Procedures for the collection of locational data. The ultimate vision is to have universally comparable locational data by collecting GPS data in a consistent manner.

Attached for your use and distribution is a copy of the GPS-TIG as well as a GPS-TIG Fact Sheet. We hope the GPS-TIG will assist with your program and regional needs. The GPS-TIG can also be found on the internet at:

- the Office of Environmental Information website-  
<http://www.epa.gov/oei/bycat.htm#gistig>
- the EPA Geospatial Quality Council website-  
<http://www.epa.gov/nerlesd1/gqc/progress.htm>