



# SUPPLEMENTAL TECHNICAL INSTRUCTIONS

Supplement  
Number

03-1

Date  
Issued

6/03

## National Mapping Program

### SUBJECT

Elimination of Photorevised Feature Codes During DLG Collection

### BACKGROUND

From the 1960s until the early 1990s, photorevision was an accepted method of updating maps without the expense of complete revision. Planimetric corrections, additions and deletions were made by photointerpretation and transferred from aerial photographs, primarily by monoscopic methods. Other available sources, such as surveys, engineering plans, or local maps, were used to revise boundaries, names, and other features not visible on the photographs. The revised features were not field checked and the unchecked information was printed in purple on the new maps.

Later, when the USGS began creating digital line graph (DLG) files representing these maps, photorevised codes were assigned to features that had been symbolized in purple. This practice continues today.

Revision from monoscopic imagery and other ancillary sources, without field verification, is the norm today rather than the exception. Although the positional accuracy of features previously printed in purple is checked during DLG revision, it is not necessary or common to use the photorevised codes to do so.

Photorevised feature codes are not applied to data collected for the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) or in the recent draft content standards for *The National Map*. While it is important to identify the source of updates for the NHD and *The National Map*, there are better ways to provide the necessary information than by using photorevised feature codes. For instance, every feature in the NHD that is modified gets a new "generation" and every generation of a feature is linked to a metadata record providing the lineage information.

The use of photorevised feature codes during DLG collection from maps is a carryover from older production methods and products. The current value of this practice is questionable and the cost is difficult to justify during a time of scarce resources.

Adding photorevised codes for each purple feature can be a significant effort in some cases. Production experts estimate that adding these codes increases the overall amount of time spent on DLG collection by approximately 5%-15%.

### INSTRUCTIONS

This Supplemental Technical Instruction supersedes the instructions in the Standards for Digital Line Graphs and the Standards for 1:24,000-Scale Digital Line Graphs and Quadrangle Maps.

Discontinue the use of photorevised feature codes during DLG collection.

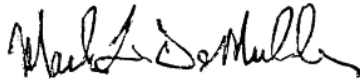
**APPLIES TO**

All Digital Line Graphs

**ISSUED TO**

Standard distribution of NMP Technical Instructions

**APPROVED BY**



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