



THE ASSOCIATE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

APR 15 2008

Ms. Anne Hale Miglarese
Chair, National Geospatial Advisory Committee
President, EarthData International, Inc.
7320 Executive Way,
Frederick, Maryland 21704-8353

Dear Ms. Miglarese:

The purpose of this letter is to provide guidance to the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) and identify initial key issues for the NGAC to address over the coming months. This guidance represents Interior's charge to the NGAC on behalf of the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) partner agencies.

The FGDC views the NGAC as an important component for ensuring the success of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). Successfully implementing the NSDI requires close coordination between Federal, State, local, and tribal governments; the private sector; academia; and non-profit organizations. To ensure effective coordination, the FGDC needs advice from stakeholders on a wide variety of issues. An initial set of issues for review and consideration by the NGAC has been identified through discussions among Interior, FGDC agencies and staff, and the NGAC Chair and Vice Chair. We have also sought feedback from NGAC members and FGDC agencies to help prioritize these potential study issues.

The goal in providing this initial guidance is to establish a general framework that will allow the NGAC to focus its efforts on high priority issues, including issues within the list presented below, while still providing the NGAC with the flexibility to organize, prioritize, and refine the tasks it is being called upon to address. Key issues for initial NGAC review during 2008 are identified within the four focus areas listed below. The focus areas may lend themselves to a subcommittee organization that could be created to address each of the four areas.

1. Advancing the National Spatial Data Infrastructure

- **National Spatial Data Infrastructure.** Recommendations on the future roles and responsibilities of the key players (Federal, State/local, private sector, academia, etc.) in developing and sustaining the next generation of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure. This review may include examination of public domain vs. restricted information, and the future role and evolution of the National Applications Office in coordination and declassification of geospatial data and information.

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Given the complexity of this focus area, the full development of recommendations on this topic area may not be completed in 2008. However, the Committee should strive to develop initial observations and recommendations by October 2008.

2. Public-Private Partnerships

- **Investment Strategy.** Recommendations on minimizing/removing investment barriers that impede public-private partnerships in advancing the collection, use, and dissemination of geospatial data, products, and technology. This review may include recommendations on developing stable and sustainable financing of geospatial products and services.

3. Management of Federal Geospatial Resources

- **OMB Circular A-16.** Provide comments/recommendations on geospatial lifecycle management strategies and revisions to OMB Circular A-16 data themes being developed and coordinated through the Geospatial Line of Business initiative.

4. Data Initiatives

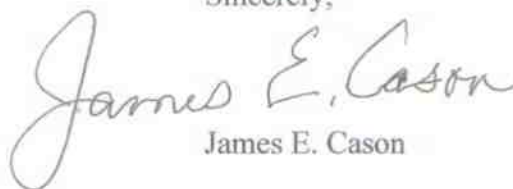
- Review and recommendations, including recommendations on prioritization, on specific programmatic or data initiatives, which include the following:
 - **Imagery for the Nation (IFTN).** Does the proposed coverage, frequency, resolution, and cost sharing associated with the IFTN proposal make sense from operational and cost viewpoints? Is the proposed IFTN policy model a useful and applicable construct for advancing NSDI? Would the IFTN policy model be applicable to other data themes?
 - **The National Map.** Review customer business requirements research results and provide input on the next generation and long-term vision of *The National Map*.
 - **National Land Parcel Data.** Provide comments/recommendations based upon the National Academy of Sciences study on parcels, and the Bureau of Land Management's strategy for the National Integrated Land System.

The focus areas and issues identified above reflect our initial priorities for the NGAC during the remainder of 2008. However, the NGAC is not restricted to these issues only. We view this process as a partnership and expect to augment these issues over time. We look forward to an ongoing, dynamic, and productive dialogue with the NGAC membership and FGDC partner agencies to refine these issues and to define the longer-term issues that the NGAC will address into 2009.

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As you know, Ivan DeLoatch, the Staff Director of the FGDC Secretariat, is serving as the Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the NGAC. Ivan and his staff will continue to coordinate with you on the planning and implementation of NGAC activities. If have you any questions, please contact Ivan at ideloatch@usgs.gov or 703-648-5752.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James E. Cason". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

James E. Cason

cc: Mr. Ivan DeLoatch
Designated Federal Officer, National Geospatial Advisory Committee
Staff Director, FGDC
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