



United States Department of the Interior

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
Washington, DC 20240



JAN 15 2008

MEMORANDUM

To: Senior Agency Officials for Geospatial Information
Federal Geographic Data Committee Steering Committee

From: P. Lynn Scarlett *P2500*
Chair, Federal Geographic Data Committee Steering Committee
Deputy Secretary of the Interior

Subject: Next Phase of Geospatial Line of Business

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update on the Geospatial Line of Business (LoB), to inform you about the implementation of the agreed-upon governance structure of the LoB, and to request your continuing support as we move into the next phase of this important initiative.

Since the initiation of the Geospatial LoB initiative in 2006, we have developed a set of common solutions and a target architecture, conducted data collections to establish a baseline of geospatial investments, and refined the goals and objectives of the LoB under three primary areas of focus: Enhanced Governance, Planning and Investment Strategies, and Optimizing and Standardizing Geospatial Data and Services. I am pleased that through the combined efforts of the agencies participating in the LoB, we have achieved a high degree of consensus on goals and objectives of the fiscal year 2009 Joint Business Case. The partner agencies have agreed upon a set of tasks and deliverables for the coming year that will help us improve the management of Federal geospatial resources.

As one of the integral components of the LoB program of work, we have recently established a new Project Management Office function to support our efforts. In addition, Secretary Kempthorne will soon complete the appointment of the members of the new National Geospatial Advisory Committee, which will play an important role in providing external recommendations and advice on Federal geospatial issues.

To date, we have implemented the LoB activities through an interagency task force that was established in 2006. The task force, which was created as a short-term solution to initiate work on the LoB, was never envisioned as a permanent body. With this memorandum, I would like to inform you that we will be implementing the LoB governance structure described in the Geospatial LoB Common Solutions and Target Architecture document. This will require us to

sunset the LoB Task Force and transfer the responsibility for interagency oversight of the Geospatial LoB initiative to the FGDC Coordination Group. As you know, the Coordination Group is a long-standing committee of agency geospatial managers that supports the work of the FGDC Steering Committee and the Senior Agency Officials for Geospatial Information. The Coordination Group is the logical body to assume the long-term responsibility for the implementation of the LoB. As a part of this transition of responsibilities, we will review the Coordination Group charter and other governing documents to determine whether additional updates or modifications are necessary.

In addition, to facilitate the consideration of LoB recommendations and other interagency proposals such as the Imagery for the Nation initiative, we are creating a new Executive Committee of the FGDC Steering Committee. The Executive Committee will include the SAOGIs from agencies with major geospatial responsibilities.

We have important work to accomplish through the LoB over the coming year and it is important that all participating agencies remain fully engaged in FGDC and LoB activities. We have established a set of workgroups to lead the implementation of the various LoB tasks, and we need the continuing participation of your staff in these groups to achieve our common goals. Your agency's level of staff commitment will be dictated by the subject matter being addressed by the various workgroups and will require your agency's assessment to determine your level participation. We will provide more detailed projections through the workgroup deliberations and will need your representatives' participation to accurately determine the support that is needed.

In order to allow us to effectively coordinate with your agency, I would appreciate it if you would confirm the designation of your primary and alternate members of the FGDC Coordination Group to Ivan DeLoatch at (703) 648-5752 or ideloatch@usgs.gov by January 31, 2008.

Thank you for your ongoing participation in the Geospatial LoB and your support of our work with the FGDC.