



United States Department of the Interior

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
Office of the Director
Reston, Virginia 20192

In Reply Refer To:
Mail Stop 100
#10774.

MEMORANDUM

JUN 23 1998

To: Division Chiefs
Acting Chief, Office of Program Support

From: Thomas J. Casadevall
Acting Director

Thomas J. Casadevall

Subject: USGS Implementation of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure

This memorandum is to reaffirm the importance of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) as a critical element of the long-term U.S. Geological Survey Strategic Plan and the foundation upon which we can become a "Gateway to the Earth." As a national activity, the NSDI is the means by which spatial data can be made available to contribute to environmental quality, economic growth, and social progress at local, national, and global scales. Within the USGS, the application of the principles of the NSDI continue to provide the framework by which the bureau directs its technologies, policies, standards, and human resources for the acquisition, management, sharing, and use of geospatial data.

I recently met with members of the Geological Survey Geospatial Data Committee (GSGDC) to review and discuss our 1998 Action Plan. This plan, developed in 1994 and revised in January 1998, served as an effective tool for initiating the USGS node of the National Geospatial Data Clearinghouse. While much still needs to be done, we are making progress that is vital to the USGS leadership role in the NSDI. The GSGDC is providing important leadership for the USGS in this area. Working with John Moeller, Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) Staff Director, the GSGDC facilitates the NSDI implementation to ensure that the USGS fulfills its mission by providing reliable, impartial information that is scientifically credible, objective, and relevant to the needs of society.

I ask that each of you and your representatives continue to work in a coordinated manner with the GSGDC to build and implement the NSDI within the USGS. To facilitate their efforts, please provide to me, by September 30, 1998, a progress report of your efforts during fiscal year 1998 on implementing the USGS NSDI Action Plan, as well as planned actions for continued implementation. These progress reports should be provided through your GSGDC member. The GSGDC will consolidate the progress reports and provide a revised bureau plan to me by October 30, 1998.

The visions of the NSDI and USGS continue to provide a common pathway to the future. USGS leadership in these efforts have been exemplary. With continued aggressive implementation of the NSDI, USGS serves as a positive role model for other Department of Interior bureaus, as well as other Federal departments, in building relationships to obtain, integrate, and use biologic, cartographic, geologic, and hydrologic data and information for both scientific and resource management decisions.

Copy to: GSGDC Members
Chief, Program Planning and Coordination Office
Chief, Program Operations Office
Information Council Members