

**Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC)
Standards Working Group (SWG) Meeting
5 February 2003
Lockheed Martin
Chantilly, Virginia**

Report to NSGIC
Lamere Hennessee

Spatial Data Transfer Standard (SDTS)

SDTS is under review by INCITS/L1. SWG is in the process of developing an action plan for maintenance of the standard as an FGDC standard, a FIPS standard, and/or an ANSI standard. (NIST is getting out of the FIPS program. As a FIPS standard is withdrawn, it will be presented to INCITS/L1 for possible elevation to a national standard.) This is an opportunity to thoroughly review SDTS – find out who is using it, revise it to accommodate new technology, decide whether to elevate it to the national level. At present, different federal agencies are in charge of maintaining different parts of the standard. The U.S. Geological Survey will take the lead in developing a list of issues and options, based on comments from the SWG, INCITS/L1, and individuals on the Geospatial One-Stop mailing list. Comments must be submitted by March 12, 2003; a position paper will be presented at the INCITS/L1 meeting on April 2, 2003.

A suggestion was made to review the entire body of FGDC standards to determine if any should be raised to the national level.

Address Content Standard

At the December 2002 SWG meeting, the committee developing the Address Content Standard requested that SWG review the latest draft of the document, prior to releasing it for a second public review. SWG members recommended that coordinate systems be removed entirely from the standard and that the standard focus solely on address identifiers. Coordinate systems are covered by other standards; the Address Content Standard should just point to those standards. Additional minor modifications were suggested. Once the document is revised, SWG will vote on it by e-mail. The document will then be presented to the FGDC Coordination Group in March 2003, with a request for public review.

Geospatial Interoperability Reference Model (GIRM)

“To facilitate and promote the use of georeferenced information from multiple sources over the Internet,” the FGDC Geospatial Applications and Interoperability (GAI) Working Group has developed a document, the Geospatial Interoperability Reference Model (GIRM). The document references the standards and specifications needed if software systems that provide geospatial data, maps, services, and user applications are to work together. Version 0.8 of the draft document has been released for public comment through February 21, 2003. View the document at: <http://gai.fgdc.gov/girm/>.

SWG members agreed that the GIRM is a valuable tool and wondered whether the document should be subject to the same rigor as FGDC standards. Is the GIRM itself a standard or a guidance document that references standards? Does SWG treat the two differently? The liaison between the GAI and Standards Working Groups has briefed SWG on the progress of the work and encouraged comments from SWG members. Is this sufficient involvement from SWG? In the bigger scheme of things, what is the role of SWG vis-à-vis policy setting? Julie Binder-Maitra, chair of SWG, will meet with Ivan Deloatch and Myra Bambacus to resolve these questions and to decide what happens next with the GIRM, once comments from the public review have been adjudicated.

Next Meeting

The next SWG meeting is April 16, 2002.

Meeting Minutes

Minutes of SWG meetings are posted on the following website:
http://www.fgdc.gov/standards/organization/swg_organization.html

Best Quote of the Meeting

“Controversy is always better than apathy.” Julie Binder-Maitra