Improved Policy for Coordinating the Development of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure

Milo ROBINSON, USA

Key words: geographic data coordination, spatial data infrastructure, policy.

ABSTRACT

Geographic data coordination is a difficult problem. A key policy document for the coordination of spatial data activities in the United States is the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-16. In June of 2001, the Steering Committee of Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) endorsed a new version of Circular A-16. The new version reflects needed changes from the current 1990 version of Circular A-16 by incorporating Executive Order 12906 that establishes the National Spatial Data Infrastructure, as well as recommendations by the FGDC design study team. It also reflects renewed interested and a more active role for OMB in spatial data coordination. This paper reviews the lengthy historical of evolution U.S. geographic data coordination, describes the pending development of the new circular including several major changes, and provides current status of the proposed new policy circular. The proposed new circular facilitates new improvements in spatial data coordination that have the potential for great benefits, especially as electronic government advances.

CONTACT

Milo Robinson
Federal Geographic Data Committee
590 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
USA
Tel. + 1 703 648 5162
Fax + 1 703 648 5755
E-mail: mrobinson@fgdc.gov
Web site: www.fgdc.gov