

Part B - 9

**LEAD AGENCY/BUREAU AND/OR SUBCOMMITTEE/WORKING GROUP
REPORT (Agencies with Lead Responsibilities Assigned under the new
Circular A-16 in Appendix E -**

**<http://www.fgdc.gov/publications/a16final.html#appendix>) (Please provide
a separate report for each activity for which you have the lead)**

1. Program/Activity Name: Geodetic Control
2. What are the specific federal programs this data supports?
NGS data support:
Bureau of Land Management,
Environmental Protection Agency,
Federal Emergency Management Agency,
Federal Aviation Administration,
Federal Communications Commission,
Federal Highway Administration,
Federal Railroad Administration,
National Aeronautics and Space Administration,
National Imagery and Mapping Agency,
National Institute of Science and Technology,
National Park Service,
NOAA Coast Survey,
NOAA Forecast Systems Laboratory,
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
U.S. Census Bureau,
U.S. Coast Guard,
U.S. Department of Agriculture,
U.S. Geological Survey, and
U.S. Naval Observatory.
3. Uses of Data: How does your data benefit customers and support agency missions?

Geodetic control data used for spatial reference in positioning activities, particularly surveying, civil engineering, mapping, and charting. Providing these data is the primary mission of NGS.
4. Charter/Plan: Do you have a current charter or plan for collection? If so - please describe (include how recently the charter/plan was implemented and whether it is in need of update).

The Geodetic Control Theme exactly parallels the main concern of the Federal Geodetic Control Subcommittee (FGCS), which has a current

charter, dated September 12, 1995. This charter remains viable and is not in need of significant update.

5. Metadata Status: Is metadata discoverable and served through the NSDI Clearinghouse? What percentage of this theme's data has metadata and is in a Clearinghouse node?

The great majority of NGS geodetic metadata are available through the NSDI Clearinghouse:

- Geodetic Control
- Electronic Distance Measurement Instrument Calibration Base Lines.
- GPS orbits
- GPS Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS)
- Geoid Model and Vertical Deflections.
- Gravity

Some other non-federal providers (states) are making their metadata available, but it is likely a small percentage of the total.

6. Standards: What is the status of this theme's data, process, transfer, and classification standards?
 - Geodetic Data Content Standard is now in development.
 - Geospatial Positioning Accuracy Standards, Part 1: Reporting Methodology – endorsed.
 - Geospatial Positioning Accuracy Standards, Part 2: Standards for Geodetic Networks – endorsed.
 - Spatial Data Transfer Standard (SDTS) Part 6: Point Profile
 - Metadata Profile for Shoreline Data – endorsed.

7. Progress: List FY 2003 activities/progress to date (quantify where possible).

Developed draft Geodetic Data Content Standard now (August 2003) under public review.

8. Policy: Do you have a formal agency policy in place for full and open access or data sharing? Are you able to fulfill this policy and provide public access with your current agency financial resources as allocated or are you in pursuit of collaborative federal partnerships to support data access?

NGS has an internal policy set November 30, 1994 and revised February 13, 2002 for making public geodetic control point information held by NGS. Positional data are made public from the NGS data base for geodetic

control points of an unclassified or non-proprietary nature, that are within the borders of the United States, have coordinates resulting from rigorous geodetic adjustment procedure, adequately described, not known to be destroyed. In 2002, the policy was revised to include those foreign data holdings which have been authorized for publication by the country they reside in.

NGS is able to carry out this function under present funding allocations.

9. Are there areas or issues regarding lead responsibilities for spatial data themes that require attention, or lessons-learned that you would like to share with others? Please describe.

Defining the scope of geodetic control. The experience from the process of developing the geodetic data content standard has demonstrated that there is not a consensus among the broader, land surveying community as to the definition (i.e., scope) of “geodetic control” theme. As an operating premise FGCS has, among the participating federal agencies, long accepted the scope of geodetic control as being survey control at the highest accuracy levels, connected to the national spatial reference framework, and used for as reference to lower accuracy surveys. This issue has pointed out the need to have methods to address the concerns of the previously considered, non-geodetic surveying community.