



United States Department of the Interior

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
RESTON, VA 22092



In Reply Refer To:
WGS-Mail Stop 516

JUN 8 1988

Honorable Lando W. Zech, Jr.
Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory
Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The purpose of this letter and enclosed set of questions (enclosure 1) is to enlist your assistance in helping the Federal Interagency Coordinating Committee on Digital Cartography (FICCDC) identify the scope of geographic information system (GIS) use in the Federal community. The FICCDC is an Office of Management and Budget (OMB) established committee charged with coordinating and reporting on Federal agencies digital cartography activities. The steering committee is comprised of representatives from 11 Departments and agencies, and regularly canvasses Federal agencies in order to gather necessary information on digital cartography activities and related spatial data technologies. The information supplied by your agency will be summarized along with other participating organizations data for presentation and distribution by the FICCDC at two national GIS conferences later this year, and will also be included in the committee's annual report to OMB. Copies of this year's completed GIS survey will also be furnished to your agency within 2 months following your submittal.

This is the second year of the survey and the list of questions has been slightly modified to gain a better understanding of agencies future plans in addition to current plans for GIS. Your agency did not participate in the survey last year, however, a copy of last year's results (enclosure 2) is enclosed for reference in filling out this year's survey.

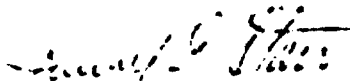
For the purpose of this survey, a geographic information system is defined as a computer hardware and software system designed to collect, manage, manipulate, analyze, and display spatially referenced data. A GIS can assist in the analysis of a variety of cartographic and geographic data such as earth science, natural science, biological science, ecological, engineering, urban, demographic or socioeconomic data. Thus, geographic information systems are emerging as major spatial data handling tools for solving complex planning and management problems. The use of GIS technology has important implications for the development of digital data bases and the way Federal agencies implement and monitor management plans. Your input regarding this new and fast evolving technology will enable the committee and participating agencies to better understand GIS use and potential for growth in the Federal government.

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We would appreciate receiving the completed survey document by July 15, 1988. The response should be sent to Bruce McKenzie, FICCDC Executive Secretary, U.S. Geological Survey, 516 National Center, Reston, VA 22092. If you have questions about the information requested in the survey document, please contact either myself (703) 648-5747 or Mr. McKenzie on (703) 648-5740 or FTS 959-5740.

Thank you for your assistance in collecting this important information.

Sincerely,



Lowell E. Starr
Chairman, Federal Interagency Coordinating
Committee on Digital Cartography

Enclosures