

Data Stewards,

Good morning/afternoon. Even though I have talked with almost all of you individually, I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself. I am the new National Data Stewards Coordinator and I am based out of the Appalachian Regional OSM office in Pittsburgh, PA. I have been with OSM for 8 years and, along with many other things, I have a GIS background and I'm involved in the TIPS geospatial activities.

### Geospatial Data Standards

Over the past 6 years, I have been heavily involved with the TIPS ASTM data standards task force group. Our mission, as set out by most of you, the data stewards, was to get OSM, the states, non-profit organizations, industry, and other federal agencies together to create data standards for coal mine geospatial data. So, as co-team leader of the task force group, I am proud to announce that we have 2 geospatial data standards (Title V and Title IV) approved (through ASTM) and published, ready for distribution. My goal over the next few weeks is to mail out a hard copy of each standard to each of you. There are some offices who have already received the standards and I have that list.

For a summary of the standards and how to order additional copies of the standards please see the attachment "*Coal Mining and Reclamation ASTM Standards, Summary Features and How To Order A Copy of the Standards*".

### We ask for your help- feedback and comments

When you receive these standards, I know it will be very tempting to add them to your 'to-do' pile on your desk (I am so guilty of this). Please read through them. Please have your other GIS staff read through them. Please have your program people look through them and anyone else who might gain benefit from them. Then we want your feedback. Even though it has been a 6-year effort, writing a standard and actually implementing one is very different.

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Please look over them and give us feedback- what in the standard works, what doesn't work, what kind of data does your program have/collect, what data will be hard to come by, what attributes or domains did we forget, are there definitions/terms that don't make sense, etc. You guys will be the users; we want to know what works and doesn't work in a practical environment.

Collect all your comments/feedback and send them back to me by **March 1, 2013**. The standards need to be revised at least every 5 years and we want to incorporate your changes if we can.

I am very excited to work with each of you and exchange and share ideas, develop new ones through discussion, etc. There's a lot of potential for exciting things in this geospatial world.

Thank you for all your hard work!

Below is some background regarding the development of the standards, the Appalachian GeoMine Pilot Project, and the SMCRA National Coal Mining Geospatial GeoCommittee.

Any questions, please don't hesitate to be in touch with me.

Thanks!

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#### ASTM Standards Background

For those of you who are unfamiliar with the standards, here is a little background- The States and the RAs have always collected and maintained their own geospatial data as relevant to their State Regulations, Directive Reg-8, and what they could collect from industry. Each RA also used terminology that was, for the most part, unique to that RA and that state. With everyone working within their own system, sharing the data across state lines became very difficult.

The data stewards recognized this problem and suggested the development of coal mine geospatial data standards that would be national in scope, would help to standardize geospatial data across the different RA programs, and would better facilitate the sharing of data among the SMCRA community.

The ASTM data standards task force team set up the standards so they may be used as a template for building a geodatabase.

#### Appalachian GeoMine Pilot Project Background

What was the best way to serve and share this data to states, RAs, the public, other federal agencies, and all other interested parties? TIPS came up with the idea of Geomine- a well organized, useable web service, using cloud computing, which would bring together geospatial data from different sources into one seamless layer. Users would be able to easily download data and use it without much formatting and extra work. The GeoMine geodatabase schema was developed using the ASTM standards as a template.

This setup and data sharing concept is now being tested through the Appalachian GeoMine Pilot Project. This project includes four states: Kentucky, Tennessee, West Virginia and Virginia along with a number of federal agencies--FWS, Corps of Engineers, EPA and OSM. Each party contributed data to the effort and, with OSM leading the way, set up sharing services for their data. It is a huge effort and the final report for this pilot project is scheduled to come out in the summer of 2013. You will be kept apprised of this effort and invited to attend some webinars in the coming months. The GeoMine viewer is not available at this time. Please see the attached *GeoMine Interagency Appalachian Pilot Project* factsheet for further information.

### SMCRA National Coal Mining Geospatial GeoCommittee

For information regarding the GeoCommittee, including the Charter and membership, please go to the TIPS website located [here](#). The GeoCommittee was created and chartered “to discover, review, and promote geospatial technologies that increase the effectiveness and efficiencies of SMCRA organizations” (previously known as the National Coal Mining Geospatial Committee (NCMGC)). Its members represent the entire spectrum of the SMCRA community, including State, Tribes and OSM offices. The GeoCommittee will be meeting in March to layout its 2013 workplan and it will be available on the website when complete (the workplan for last year is currently on the website). Among other things, the GeoCommittee is considering sponsoring a national Geospatial Conference in 2014. If you have any suggestions for GeoCommittee (geospatial) activities (current and future), please don’t hesitate to be in touch with your representative or me, your National Data Stewards Coordinator.

### SMCRA Data Stewards

For additional information regarding Data Stewards activities, including a listing of Data Stewards, please go to the TIPS website located [here](#). Arielle will be updating this site from time-to-time.