

**Charter**  
**SMCRA GeoCommittee**

September 29, 2011

**A partnership between the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, the States, and Tribes authorized to administer the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act**

**Purpose**

The Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA) National Coal Mining Geospatial Committee ("GeoCommittee") is 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)).

**Objectives**

The GeoCommittee works closely with the management and technical and program personnel within SMCRA organizations to identify and assess geospatial data products, data sets, hardware, software, and other services to improve the quality, efficiencies, cost effectiveness and timeliness of SMCRA business processes. The GeoCommittee communicates with SMCRA organization executives to keep them informed and to gain their continued commitment.

**Scope**

The GeoCommittee will work with all geospatial technologies which have application to control the potential environmental impacts of coal mining operations and reclamation. Examples of these geospatial technologies include, but are not limited to, technical procedures related to geospatial data processing, thematic mapping, geographic information systems, remote sensing technologies, and mobile technology. The GeoCommittee will specifically focus on geospatial information issues and opportunities as outlined in the Geospatial Strategic Plan that have nationwide application and which are critical to the success of the SMCRA community.

**Authority**

The GeoCommittee was established by Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's ("OSM's") Director and the National Technology Innovation and Professional Services (TIPS) Steering Committee on May 4, 2005. The GeoCommittee was charged with retasking, to guide implementation of the Geospatial Strategic Plan.

Laws and policies that will be considered by the GeoCommittee include the following:

- Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA)
- Executive Order 12906, Coordinating Geographic Data Acquisition and Access: The National Spatial Data Infrastructure
- OMB Circular A-16, Coordination of Geographic Information and Related Spatial Data Activities
- OMB Circular No. A-130, Management of Federal Information Resources
- Clinger-Cohen Act of 1996, formerly the Information Technology Management Reform Act
- E-Government Act of 2002, Section 216, Common Protocols for Geographic Information Systems
- Paperwork Reduction Act (P.L. 104-13)
- Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA)

**Membership**

GeoCommittee members consist of representatives from: The Interstate Mining Compact Commission (IMCC),

National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs (NAAML), Western Interstate Energy Board (WIEB), the three OSM regions, and OSM Headquarters. The entities represent the States, the Tribes and OSM. All of which are involved in SMCRA activities. GeoCommittee members are geospatial technical experts and managers who possess an appreciation of the broad and diverse strategic missions of the SMCRA organizations and the value of geospatial technologies to further the SMCRA mission objectives. Members serve without term limits. The GeoCommittee Chairman is the OSM Geospatial Information Officer and the Executive Sponsor is the OSM Regional Director, Western Region.

### **Participation**

Members of the GeoCommittee agree to fully participate in its activities and will operate under this Charter. Participation is subject to budget constraints.

### **Decisions**

Decisions will be made by consensus.

### **Responsibilities**

GeoCommittee Responsibilities:

1. Communicate with the States, Tribes, and OSM management and staff via surveys, meetings and technology seminars to identify and prioritize geospatial informational products.
2. Develop and maintain a SMCRA Geospatial Strategic Plan.
3. Establish and maintain a network of geospatial data stewards within the States, Tribes, and OSM offices.
4. Maintain and revise as required the SMCRA American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) geospatial data standards.
5. Brief the Executives of OSM, IMCC, WEIB, and NAAML.
6. Disseminate information on methodology and best practices for acquiring, developing, maintaining, and distributing geospatial data.
7. Identify opportunities for re-engineering business processes using geospatial information.
8. Identify requirements for an enterprise Geographic Information System (GIS) to support SMCRA business processes.
9. Report GeoCommittee activities to the TIPS Steering Committee and make recommendations as appropriate.
10. Coordinate with the DOI Enterprise Geographic Information Management (EGIM) work group.
11. Coordinate with the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) to help implement the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) as it relates to the SMCRA community.
12. Review, consult, and advise other teams and workgroups on using geospatial technology within the SMCRA community as necessary.
13. Encourage, facilitate, and sponsor the attendance of advance training and conferences (e.g. ESRI).

GeoCommittee Member Rules:

1. Arrange schedules to attend meetings. An alternate must be designated if a member is unable to attend.
2. Prepare for meetings.
3. Represent the interest of his/her organization and serve as point-of-contact.
4. Share administrative chores. (e.g., meeting notes).

5. Complete projects and tasks within agreed time frames.
6. Communicate GeoCommittee activities to his/her organization.

GeoCommittee Chairman Responsibilities:

1. Prepare meeting agendas in advance.
2. Facilitate meetings.
3. Ensure GeoCommittee records (e.g., meeting notes, reports, briefings) are maintained
4. Monitor action items.
5. Represent GeoCommittee before other working groups and OSM Executives.
6. Serves as the liaison to the OSM Executive Sponsor.

**Meetings**

The GeoCommittee will interact as needed through meetings, teleconferences, and e-mail to accomplish objectives. The GeoCommittee will hold a face-to-face meeting at least once per year and will hold regularly scheduled teleconferences. Issues and assignments requiring immediate attention may be handled via teleconference.

**Methods**

The GeoCommittee will review issues and produce information products as required to meet its responsibilities. The GeoCommittee will form technical working groups comprised of Federal, State, or Tribal personnel and request support to address issues, investigate options, and recommend best technical solutions.

**Resources**

Base funding for activities of the GeoCommittee will be provided by OSM's National TIPS Program. Project specific resources will be provided by member organizations.

**Changes**

This charter may be revised upon the recommendation of the GeoCommittee members and with the concurrence of the Chair.