



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

U.S. Department of Energy

SPECIAL REPORT

DOE-OIG-20-58

September 2020

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
GEOSPATIAL DATA ACT OF 2018**



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

September 30, 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Teri L. Donaldson".

FROM: Teri L. Donaldson
Inspector General

SUBJECT: INFORMATION: Special Report on the “Department of Energy’s
Implementation of the Geospatial Data Act of 2018”

BACKGROUND

The *Geospatial Data Act of 2018* (Geospatial Data Act) was signed into law on October 5, 2018, to help develop, drive, and manage the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI), which includes the technology, policies, criteria, standards, and employees necessary to promote geospatial data sharing throughout federal, state, tribal, and local governments, and the private sector. The Geospatial Data Act reflects growing recognition of the essential role of geospatial data and technology in understanding and managing our world, and highlights the need to support the data’s continued development as critical investments for the Nation. To help meet the requirements of the Geospatial Data Act, the Office of the Chief Information Officer, as the Department of Energy’s lead office for implementing the Geospatial Data Act, established the Geospatial Science - Program Management Office (GS-PMO). The GS-PMO is expected to provide the governance structure, strategic direction, mission alignment, and communication for the geospatial science and technology implementations within the Department.

The Geospatial Data Act requires each applicable Office of Inspector General to report on the agency’s collection, production, acquisition, maintenance, distribution, use, and preservation of geospatial data. In particular, the review shall include an evaluation of compliance with: (1) standards for geospatial data, including metadata for geospatial data established under the Geospatial Data Act; (2) the agency responsibilities and requirements under the Geospatial Data Act; and (3) limitations on the use of federal funds under the Geospatial Data Act. Consistent with the requirements of the Geospatial Data Act, we completed our review to determine whether the Department met the requirements of the Act. This report documents the results of our test work.

RESULTS OF AUDIT

Due to limitations with agencies’ abilities to implement the Geospatial Data Act, our test work was limited to identifying the Department’s initial efforts to implement the Act. As such, and

consistent with guidance issued by the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, we did not evaluate the effectiveness of the Department's efforts at this time. However, as the Department continues to implement the Act's requirements, we plan to evaluate the effectiveness in future reviews. Our inaugural review found that while the Department had taken steps to implement the Geospatial Data Act, significant work remains. In particular, although the Department had initiated and/or completed actions related to each of the 13 agency responsibilities outlined in the Geospatial Data Act, we identified that it had not fully implemented 12 of the requirements (Attachment 1).

Geospatial Data Act Strategic Plan

The Geospatial Data Act requires that the Department prepare, maintain, publish, and implement a strategy for advancing geographic information, related geospatial data, and activities appropriate to its mission, in support of the strategic plan for the NSDI. However, at the time of our review, the Department had not fully implemented this requirement. We determined that the Department was working to complete the *Department of Energy's Geospatial Strategic Plan* and plans to release the document in December 2020. Because the draft Strategic Plan provided in July 2020 was still in early development, we were unable to determine whether the necessary strategic initiatives were in place to address the requirements for advancing geographic information and geospatial activities appropriate to the Department's mission. Furthermore, to help meet the requirements of the Strategic Plan, the Department drafted a Communication Plan to provide assistance with advancing geospatial data activities and help stakeholders gain an understanding of the Geospatial Data Act, in collaboration with the Federal Geographic Data Committee¹ (FGDC).

Geospatial Data Records

Although required by the Geospatial Data Act, the Department had not identified a complete and accurate inventory of geospatial data collected, maintained, disseminated, and preserved in order to successfully share the data with other Federal agencies and non-Federal users. While the Department's Office of the Chief Information Officer conducted a data call with Department elements in January 2020, the results did not provide a complete inventory of geospatial data and activities used throughout the agency. This initial data call was intended to ascertain the current status of geospatial activities at the Department with respect to the Geospatial Data Act and provide an initial inventory of geospatial assets. Even though the GS-PMO briefed Department elements on the expectations of the data call, interviews with program office and field site officials indicated an uncertainty with what was expected and to what degree the use of geospatial data was to be reported. The GS-PMO issued an additional data call in July 2020 to assist in making the Department's geospatial information and services more useful to the public and across the agency, enhancing operations, supporting decision making, and enhancing the reporting to the public and Congress. We also found that program offices and field sites were not always fully aware of what geospatial data they collected, maintained, disseminated, and preserved within their own organization. For example, officials from the Office of Science and

¹ Based on Office of Management and Budget Circular A-16, the FGDC was established within the Department of the Interior as an interagency committee to act as the lead entity within the executive branch for the development, implementation, and review of policies, practices, and standards related to geospatial data.

the National Nuclear Security Administration indicated that they did not have any ongoing geospatial activities under their cognizance and/or did not have a point of contact at the Headquarters level. However, during our review, we identified multiple instances of ongoing geospatial activities within both programs. Furthermore, five of nine program offices and three of four field sites we spoke with had not conducted an inventory of their local geospatial data to ensure that their submissions to the Department's original data call were accurate and complete.

The GS-PMO also established action items within the *DOE Covered Agency Responsibilities - Implementation Plan (FY 20 – 21)*, such as the development of a list of current geospatial data sharing platforms in use across the agency, and the need to gain an understanding of how each platform collects, maintains, disseminates, and preserves the Department's geospatial data. The action items are scheduled to be completed by December 2020. Furthermore, officials indicated that the GS-PMO uploaded current Geospatial Platform² (GeoPlatform) connection instructions and geospatial best practices into the Innovation Community Center³ in July 2020.

Geospatial Data Integration

Although required, the Department was unable to fully optimize and promote the integration of geospatial data from all sources. As previously discussed, the Department lacked a complete inventory of geospatial data activities which could have aided with integration. Furthermore, we determined that the management and communication of geospatial activities was not only decentralized, but lacked a centralized mechanism to: ensure a consistent approach for optimizing and promoting geospatial data across the agency; describe what the Department considered geospatial data activities, encourage sharing of best practices; list the various software products being used to capture geospatial data; and promote the integration of geospatial data sets. However, GS-PMO officials indicated that they plan to review data integration practices and requirements, and evaluate geospatial data integration tools across the Department. The evaluation of best practices is scheduled to be completed by December 2020 and a list of recommended tools is to be completed by February 2021.

Notably, we found that the Department had taken a number of actions to help promote integration of data. For instance, the Department developed and/or participated in multiple internal and external working groups, and regularly participates and collaborates with multiple FGDC Committees and working groups. To help ensure compliance with the Geospatial Data Act, officials also established internal working groups and committees, including, but not limited to, the National Spatial Data Infrastructure Core Team, the Department's Geospatial User Group, and the Geospatial Data Act Compliance Working Group.

² The GeoPlatform, developed and maintained by the FGDC, is a cross-agency collaborative effort that supports open government, emphasizing government-to-citizen communication, accountability, and transparency.

³ The Innovation Community Center is the Department's digital hub and innovation platform for accelerating mission outcomes through conducting analysis and research, engineering, development and/or integration of solutions in a proof of concept, test and production pilot capacity, which includes, but is not limited to, geospatial-related activities.

Geospatial Records Management

The Geospatial Data Act requires that the Department ensure that data information products and other records created by geospatial data and activities are included on agency record schedules that have been approved by the National Archives and Records Administration. At the time of our review, however, no record schedules specific to geospatial data had been developed by the Department or approved by the National Archives and Records Administration. Instead, Department and site officials indicated that the handling of geospatial records was based on records management schedules specific to the topic or content (e.g., environmental, nuclear, personally identifiable information) regardless of whether it contained geospatial data. During our review, we also determined that Department officials had not issued any additional guidance specific to geospatial records management.

The GS-PMO plans to continue holding discussions with records management officials to ensure that the *DOE Geospatial Data Management Strategy and Implementation Plan* aligns with National Archives and Records Administration and recently requested information from across the Department on current geospatial records management practices. Furthermore, the GS-PMO plans to have a summary of current records management practices across the Department by the end of August 2020 to help inform implementation plan actions and ensure proper records management.

Geospatial Data Resources

The Geospatial Data Act requires that the Department allocate resources to fulfill the responsibilities of effective geospatial data collection, production, and stewardship regarding related activities and, as necessary, to support the activities of the FGDC, according to the Act. Although the Department had established the GS-PMO and multiple working groups, and was working towards meeting the requirements of the Geospatial Data Act, officials indicated that additional geospatial resources are needed to continue implementing the requirements. Specifically, the majority of staff on the GS-PMO were borrowed from other Department program offices and field sites outside of the Office of the Chief Information Officer. In addition, multiple officials raised concerns that a lack of geospatial funding could impact the Department's ability to effectively manage its geospatial data. Therefore, we believe that without the creation of a fully funded geospatial program and staffed geospatial group, the success of the program may be limited.

Notably, officials indicated that the GS-PMO will continue to hold meetings with internal working groups to determine additional resource needs and had updated the fiscal year 2021 budget request to support geospatial data management responsibilities. Officials also indicated that work will continue to ensure additional critical resources are identified and gaps are addressed in the *DOE Geospatial Data Management Strategy and Implementation Plan* by December 2020.

Geospatial Data Standards

Although their work was incomplete, we determined that officials were working towards identifying the Department's use of geospatial data standards, such as the standards for geospatial metadata and other appropriate standards, including documenting geospatial data with the relevant metadata and making metadata available through the GeoPlatform, as required by the Geospatial Data Act. Specifically, officials were reviewing current metadata policies and procedures used across the Department, and noted that prior to establishing Department policy, they were awaiting the establishment of overarching federal standards by the Office of Management and Budget and the FGDC. Furthermore, the Department was reviewing FGDC metadata standards, guidelines, and data standards for each National Geospatial Data Asset⁴ data theme relevant to its geospatial data. While working towards identifying specific geospatial data standards, officials noted that they were encouraging users to use FGDC standards during various Geospatial User Group meetings and have published those standards on the Department's Innovation Community Center. In addition, the Department intends to publish updated geospatial metadata policies and guidelines through the Innovation Community Center by October 2020. While beneficial, it is imperative that all necessary individuals and users at multiple levels (including, but not limited to, program offices, field sites, divisions/directorates, and/or projects) are familiar with the Innovation Community Center and what it has to offer to ensure the success and consistency of this requirement's implementation.

Coordination with Other Entities

In accordance with the Geospatial Data Act, we determined that the Department has taken a number of actions related to coordination with other entities regarding implementation of the Act. For example, we noted multiple instances in which Department program offices and field sites had coordinated geospatial activities with other agencies, such as the Department of Defense, Department of Interior, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Geological Survey, and various state and local governments. In addition, program office and field site officials indicated that they participated in external working groups that include both public and private sector members, such as the Artificial Intelligence Working Group, Interagency Collaboration on Environmental Modeling, FGDC Communications groups, and Environmental Systems Research Institute's user meetings. Furthermore, certain sites coordinated and worked in partnership with other Federal agencies, and state, tribal, and local governments to efficiently and effectively share, collect, integrate, maintain, disseminate, and preserve geospatial data in accordance with the Geospatial Data Act.

The Department plans to continue working with various FDGC committees and external entities. For instance, the Department plans to continue engaging with the Environmental Systems Research Institute to discuss opportunities and challenges identified from the community, related to geospatial activities, data, and data management. The Department also intends to draft an

⁴ A National Geospatial Data Asset is defined as a geospatial dataset that has been designated by the Federal Geographic Data Committee and meets at least one of the following criteria: Used by multiple agencies or with agency partners such as state, tribal and local governments, applied to achieve Presidential priorities as expressed by the Office of Management and Budget, required to meet shared mission goals of multiple Federal agencies, or expressly required by statutory mandate.

annual report based on discussions and guidance from the FGDC in October 2020, and submit it to the FGDC by January 2021. While the Department's efforts are positive, the lack of a complete understanding of geospatial data initiatives and activities across the enterprise could hinder the Department from adequately coordinating with other Federal agencies, state, local and tribal governments, and the private sector.

Use and Reporting of Geospatial Data

The Geospatial Data Act requires that the Department use geospatial information to: (1) make Federal geospatial information and services more useful to the public; (2) enhance operations; (3) support decision making; and (4) enhance reporting to the public and to Congress. During our review, we determined that the Department planned to promote the use and reporting of its geospatial data for Department, public, and Congressional use by identifying resources and platforms that could be leveraged to enhance operations and support decision making. While the Department identified multiple geospatial data resources and platforms, more work was needed. For example, the Department had begun to develop a list of host resource platforms used throughout the Department, which include platforms used by the Office of Science, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Office of Fossil Energy, and the Office of Legacy Management. However, we identified an additional platform during our review that was not included on the Department's list – the Program Management Information System, Generation 2.⁵

Notably, the Department was working on reviewing its geospatial data sharing platforms that were publicly available, ensuring that projects provide appropriate and useful data to the public. It was also developing a strategy to mature the use and reporting of geospatial data. Additionally, the GS-PMO planned to publish a list of publicly available Department geospatial data sharing platforms and common data themes on the Department's website for public use by October 2020. Department officials also stated that they plan to leverage the draft *FY 20 – 21 Geospatial Communications Plan* to provide the agency with details on methods of communication and expressed the need to provide useful geospatial data to the public.

Protection of Personal Privacy and Confidentiality of Geospatial Data

According to the Geospatial Data Act, the Department is required to protect personal privacy and maintain confidentiality in accordance with federal policy and law. However, at the time of our review, we determined that the Department had not developed specific policies and procedures regarding the protection of personal privacy and maintaining confidentiality related specifically to geospatial data. Instead, officials stated that the Department relied on general and existing guidance related to personally identifiable information and confidentiality. The GS-PMO and working group intends to coordinate with the Department's Privacy Information Office, Chief Privacy Officer, and Data Governance Board to ensure compliance with the Geospatial Data Act. Furthermore, the GS-PMO plans to develop a list of review criteria to help geospatial users

⁵ National Nuclear Security Administration Program Management Information System, Generation 2, is a custom-developed system designed to integrate and manage data, including geospatial data for maps, diagrams, photos, inventories and condition, and implements Enterprise Risk Management for prioritizing and analyzing investments.

evaluate data and ensure compliance with the Department's personal privacy and confidentiality policies, and intends to publish this information through the Innovation Community Center by February 2021.

Declassification of Geospatial Data

The Department had not made significant progress in determining, when applicable, whether declassified data can contribute to and become a part of the NSDI, as required by the Geospatial Data Act. However, the Department continues discussions with the FGDC to determine whether and how declassified data should be included in the NSDI. The GS-PMO also intends to draft a workflow by December 2020 to help Department users evaluate whether declassified data can become part of the NSDI based on guidance from FGDC and the NSDI. Notably, as a best practice, Sandia National Laboratories officials indicated that prior to any data being made publicly available, the site goes through a rigorous review process that includes data classification.

Geospatial Data Sources

In accordance with the Geospatial Data Act, the Department is currently working towards implementing the requirement to search all sources, including the GeoPlatform, to determine if existing federal, state, local, or private geospatial data meets the needs of the Department before expending funds for geospatial data collection. Specifically, the Department plans to develop an inventory of Geospatial Data Sharing Platforms by October 2020 intended to help facilitate robust geospatial data searching and discovery across the enterprise. Furthermore, the Department is pursuing enterprise software license agreements for facilitating geospatial visualization and data management with the Environmental Systems Research Institute. During our review, officials at one location suggested that the Department should partner with other agencies or organizations to gain access to additional geospatial information, due to the high costs of obtaining data.

Quality of Geospatial Data

The Department had not ensured persons receiving federal funds for geospatial data collection provided high quality data to the maximum extent practicable, as required by the Geospatial Data Act. In particular, the Department was still in the process of establishing criteria for assessing geospatial data quality and reviewing current contract guidance to inform the development of Department-wide policies and requirements. In addition, officials from several program offices and/or field sites indicated that they would like the Department to develop guidance for a consistent approach to implementation of geospatial requirements. The Department has acknowledged this and plans to publish recommended guidance for evaluating and denoting geospatial data quality within the Innovation Community Center by February 2021.

To the Department's credit, the GS-PMO and Geospatial Data Act Compliance Working Group were evaluating existing data quality practices used by the Department, including the National Energy Technology Laboratory's quality metric assessments and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory's quality reports. Discussions within the Department were also taking place to

review data quality practices for evaluating data quality, determining what denotes “high” quality data, discussing the practices’ usability/applicability to all NSDI spatial data themes, and determining what geospatial data is produced by the Department. Members of the GS-PMO were also planning to crosswalk these review findings with the determination of high value assets to support implementation of Geospatial Data Act requirements. In addition, Artificial Intelligence applications and innovations may be leveraged in the future to help the Department evaluate and assess high quality spatial data.

Geospatial Department Point of Contact

As required by the Geospatial Data Act, the Department appointed a primary point of contact to coordinate with the lead covered agencies for collection, acquisition, maintenance, and dissemination of the National Geospatial Data Asset data themes used by the Department. Specifically, the Chief Data Officer and Senior Agency Official for Geospatial Information was appointed in July 2018 to lead coordination efforts with other organizations. The Department also took a positive step by appointing an interim Geospatial Information Officer with the anticipation of hiring a permanent position by December 2020. While these were positive actions, further coordination could be bolstered by consistently identifying single points of contact for all Department program offices and field sites to help coordinate geospatial activities across the organization.

Impact and Path Forward

Without adequate progress towards the development and implementation of a geospatial strategy, there is a high risk that the Department will not be able to implement the requirements of the Geospatial Data Act. For instance, the lack of a complete inventory, adequate resources and communication, specific geospatial standards, and effective guidance increases the risk that the Department will be unable to ensure it is acquiring and producing quality geospatial data and services that can be used by internal and external stakeholders. Therefore, the Department may not be able to carry out its varying geospatial-related missions, as well as ensuring that research and development is accurate while promoting greater access and use of government information and data, as required by the Geospatial Data Act.

SUGGESTIONS

As indicated in our report, the Department had initiated a number of actions to address the requirements of the Geospatial Data Act. In light of those actions, we are not making formal recommendations to management. However, we offer the following suggestions to the Department’s Chief Information Officer:

1. Complete development and begin implementation of the *DOE Geospatial Data Management Strategy 2020 – 2025* to help ensure that Geospatial Data Act mandates are met as required;
2. Continue to identify all geospatial assets as part of a complete inventory and promote greater access, reporting, and use of Department information and data;

3. Promote geospatial data integration across the Department, including identification of geospatial information from all sources;
4. Complete development and implementation of the *FY 20 – 21 Geospatial Communications Plan* to establish effective communication and assist in the integration of geospatial usage across all levels of the Department;
5. Ensure that adequate resources are available for establishing and maintaining an effective geospatial program in accordance with the Geospatial Data Act;
6. Develop and/or enhance policies, procedures, and guidance to ensure geospatial data is maintained, privacy and confidentiality is protected, and only declassified data is disclosed to the public; and
7. Develop and implement policies, procedures, and other guidance, as necessary, related to assessing geospatial data quality of persons receiving federal funds for geospatial data collection.

Attachments

cc: Deputy Secretary of Energy
Chief of Staff
Chief Information Officer
Deputy Chief Financial Officer
Director, Office of Management

**STATUS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
GEOSPATIAL DATA ACT OF 2018**

Geospatial Data Act, Section 759, Section a.	Covered Agency Requirement	Fully Implemented (Yes/No)
Part 1	Prepare and implement a strategic plan for advancing geospatial data activities appropriate to the agency's mission.	No
Part 2	Collect, maintain, disseminate, and preserve geospatial data, such that resulting data, information, or products can be shared.	No
Part 3	Promote geospatial data integration.	No
Part 4	Ensure geospatial information is included on agency record schedules.	No
Part 5	Allocate resources to fulfill geospatial data responsibilities.	No
Part 6	Use geospatial data standards.	No
Part 7	Coordinate with other Federal agencies, state, local, and tribal governments, and the private sector.	No
Part 8	Make federal geospatial information more useful to the public, support decision making, and enhance reporting to Congress.	No
Part 9	Protect personal privacy and maintain confidentiality in accordance with federal policy and law.	No
Part 10	Participate in determining whether declassified data can become part of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure.	No
Part 11	Search all sources to determine if existing data meets the needs of the covered agency before expending funds.	No
Part 12	Ensure that those receiving federal funds for geospatial data collection provide high quality data.	No
Part 13	Appoint a contact to coordinate with other covered agencies.	Yes

OBJECTIVE, SCOPE, AND METHODOLOGY

OBJECTIVE

We conducted this audit to determine whether the Department of Energy met the requirements of the *Geospatial Data Act of 2018* (Geospatial Data Act).

SCOPE

The audit was performed between May 2020 and September 2020, and included the Department's Headquarters in Washington, DC and Germantown, Maryland; Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, New Mexico; Argonne National Laboratory in Lemont, Illinois; Hanford Site in Richland, Washington; and Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The scope of the audit was limited to the Department-wide implementation of the Geospatial Data Act. This audit was conducted under Office of Inspector General project number A20TG015.

METHODOLOGY

To accomplish our audit objective, we:

- Reviewed and gained an understanding of the requirements of the Geospatial Data Act;
- Reviewed applicable guidance and standards issued by the Department, Office of Management and Budget, and the National Archives and Records Administration;
- Reviewed prior reports and testimonies issued by the Office of Inspector General and Government Accountability Office, related to the Geospatial Data Act;
- Held discussions with the Department officials to gain an understanding of the processes and controls that the Department employed to implement the requirements of the Geospatial Data Act;
- Obtained and evaluated any project plans or strategies that the Department had developed;
- Reviewed and evaluated any internal and external working groups;
- Reviewed and evaluated the Department's implementation status as it related to the 13 requirements of Section 759 of the Geospatial Data Act;
- Identified areas of potential improvements to the Department's implementation of the Geospatial Data Act; and
- Held teleconferences with program offices and field sites, as necessary, to discuss information related to geospatial data.

We conducted this performance audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objective. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objective. Accordingly, we assessed significant internal controls and compliance with laws and regulations to the extent necessary to satisfy the audit objective. Because our review was limited, it would not have necessarily disclosed all internal control deficiencies that may have existed at the time of our audit. We did not rely on computer-processed data to satisfy our objective.

An exit conference was held with management officials on September 24, 2020.

RELATED REPORTS

Government Accountability Office

- [*GEOSPATIAL DATA - Progress Needed on Identifying Expenditures, Building and Utilizing a Data Infrastructure, and Reducing Duplicative Efforts*](#) (GAO-15-193, February 2015). According to the Government Accountability Office (GAO), Federal agencies report spending billions of dollars on geospatial investments; however, the estimates are understated because agencies do not always track geospatial investments. The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) have started an initiative to have agencies identify and report annually on geospatial-related investments as part of the fiscal year 2017 budget process. The FGDC and selected Federal agencies have made progress in implementing their responsibilities for the National Spatial Data Infrastructure as outlined in OMB guidance; however, critical items remain incomplete. In addition, selected agencies have made limited progress in their own strategic planning efforts and in using the clearinghouse to register their data to ensure they do not invest in duplicative data. Part of the reason that agencies are not fulfilling their responsibilities is that OMB has not made it a priority to oversee these efforts. Until OMB ensures that FGDC and Federal agencies fully implement their responsibilities, the vision of improving the coordination of geospatial information and reducing duplicative investments will not be fully realized.
- [*GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION - OMB and Agencies Can Reduce Duplication by Making Coordination a Priority*](#) (GAO-14-226T, December 2013). GAO reported that government-wide committees and Federal departments and agencies had not effectively implemented established policies and procedures for coordinating investments in geospatial data. The committee that was established to promote the coordination of geospatial data nationwide—the FGDC—had developed and endorsed key standards and had established a clearinghouse of metadata. GAO found that the clearinghouse was not being used by agencies to identify planned geospatial investments to promote coordination and reduce duplication. In addition, the committee had not yet fully planned for or implemented an approach to manage geospatial data as related groups of investments to allow agencies to more effectively plan geospatial data collection efforts and minimize duplicative investments, and its strategic plan was missing key elements.
- [*GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION - OMB and Agencies Need to Make Coordination a Priority to Reduce Duplication*](#) (GAO-13-94, November 2012). According to GAO, the FGDC, Federal departments and agencies, and OMB have not yet fully implemented policies and procedures for coordinating geospatial investments because these efforts have not been a priority. As a result, efforts to acquire data are uncoordinated, and the Federal government is acquiring duplicative geospatial data. For example, three agencies are independently acquiring road data, which is reported to have resulted in millions of wasted taxpayers' dollars. Unless OMB, the FGDC, and Federal departments and agencies decide that coordinating geospatial investments is a priority, this situation will likely continue.

FEEDBACK

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