



**State of Alaska**  
**Department of Administration**  
**Enterprise Technology Services**

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**Information Technology Policy**  
**Geographic Information Systems**

<b>Title:</b>	State of Alaska Information Technology Policy – Geographic Information Systems
<b>Supersedes:</b>	Original
<b>Date Effective:</b>	July 7, 2004
<b>Status:</b>	Approved, Technology Management Council
<b>Version</b>	2.0
<b>Author:</b>	Technology Information Council
<b>Applies to:</b>	This policy shall apply to projects or programs using digital geographic data
<b>Scope:</b>	Enterprise
<b>Purpose:</b>	To document the statewide policy governing use of geographic information systems (GIS)

# State of Alaska Geographic Information Systems

## Policy

This Policy provides guidelines for Geographic Information Systems (GIS), specifically in relation to NAD 83 Datum. The Telecommunications Information Council initially adopted this policy on July 26, 1994. The GIS Functional Working Group supported the policy and recommended approval to the Technology Management Council (TMC) on June 29, 2004. The TMC approved the policy on July 7, 2004.

The GIS Task Group recommends the following considerations for State programs or projects using digital geographic data:

- Whenever GIS files are transmitted between users, the datum (NAD 27 or NAD 83) needs to be referenced. (This will tell users if they need to run a conversion. To assure this communication, all geographic data should be clearly labeled with respect to its' datum.)
- The National Geodetic Survey software, NADCON, should be used to convert digital GIS files between datums. (Error assessment rates for various locations in Alaska should be assessed and published. Current estimates for this "error-averaging" approach are 0.5 to 1.5 meters. This is a completely acceptable error rate for 99.99% of all GIS applications, but conversion work for survey quality values will require a very detailed analysis.)
- Users must determine their own datum needs, just as they determine all other project information needs.
- When data is captured in NAD 83, it should be permanently stored in its' original coordinates. This will protect the integrity of the source.

Any exceptions to this policy require a waiver request to the TMC.