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### **GITA to Serve on FGDC Steering Committee**

*August 4, 2004: Aurora, CO* — The Geospatial Information & Technology Association (GITA) announced that it has been appointed to serve on the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) Steering Committee, a group that will work to develop the future of spatial data infrastructure in the United States.

The FGDC, a 19-member interagency committee composed of representatives from the Executive Office of the President, Cabinet-level and independent agencies, is developing the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) in cooperation with organizations from state, local and tribal governments, the academic community, and the private sector. Created by an executive order, the NSDI is defined as the technologies, policies, and people necessary to promote sharing of geospatial data throughout all levels of government, the private and non-profit sectors, and the academic community.

“The invitation to participate on the FGDC Steering Committee ushers in a new era for our association and its members,” said GITA Executive Director Bob Samborski. “GITA is now positioned to contribute to important national initiatives in conjunction with and on behalf of those professionals within utilities, local governments and infrastructure management organizations by directly representing their unique interests. We can be an effective conduit between the private sector infrastructure community and federal agencies, thereby strengthening and enhancing the NSDI.”

In a letter informing GITA of the appointment, Deputy Secretary of the Interior Steve Griles, who serves as chair of the steering committee, wrote, “Development of the NSDI is a challenging and beneficial task. As an organization committed to developing an industry consensus on issues related to all aspects of geospatial data use and development, GITA has an important role to play in this effort.”

“Especially in the realm of critical infrastructure protection, GITA is committed to a leadership role,” said Samborski. “Being part of the FGDC Steering Committee affords us that significant opportunity.”

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The mission of the Geospatial Information & Technology Association (GITA) is to provide excellence in education and information exchange on the use and benefits of geospatial information and technology in business, utility, and government applications worldwide. Visit GITA on the Web at [www.gita.org](http://www.gita.org).