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Description of document: United States Geological Survey (USGS) Board on Geographic Names (BGN) discussions regarding McKinley, Gulf of Mexico, 2025

Requested date: 27-January-2025

Release date: 09-September-2025

Posted date: 10-November-2025

Source of document: FOIA Request
USGS FOIA
P.O. Box 66783
Albuquerque, NM 87193
Email: foia@usgs.gov
FOIA.gov

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United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive
Reston, Virginia 20192-0002

In Reply Refer To:
U.S. Geological Survey
Attention: Judy Cearley
Post Office Box 66783
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87193

September 9, 2025

Re: U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Tracking #
DOI-2025-003261 – First Interim Response

This letter is our first interim response to your amended FOIA request dated January 27, 2025, for the following:

1. A copy of the meeting agendas, meeting minutes, meeting notes, for the Domestic Names Committee of the USGS/Board on Geographic Names during the time November 1, 2024 to the present.
2. A copy of all emails among Committee members, during the time period January 20, 2025 to the present, containing any of these keywords in either the email text or the email subject line:

Committee
McKinley
Denali
Mexico
Gulf
Administration
Interior
America
Decision

In response to item 1, the Domestic Names Committee meeting minutes are available at the following link: [DNC Minutes | U.S. Geological Survey](#).

We are releasing one Portable Document Format (PDF) electronic file, consisting of 119 pages, in part. These records are responsive to item 2 of your request. We reasonably foresee that disclosure would harm an interest protected by one or more of the nine exemptions to the FOIA's general rule of disclosure and disclosure would be prohibited by law; therefore, portions of these materials are being withheld under the following FOIA exemptions. Please note that some pages contain redactions pursuant to more than one exemption.

Exemption 3

Exemption 3 allows the withholding of information protected by a nondisclosure provision in a federal statute other than the FOIA. Specifically, 10 U.S. Code § 424b(3), prohibits the release of the number of persons employed by or assigned or detailed to any such organization or the name, official title, occupational series, grade, or salary of any organization or any function of, and certain information pertaining to employees of the Defense Intelligence Agency, the National Reconnaissance Office, and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. Approximately 24 pages contain redactions per Exemption 3.

Exemption 5

Exemption 5 allows an agency to withhold "inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party ... in litigation with the agency." 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(5). Exemption 5 therefore incorporates the privileges that protect materials from discovery in litigation, including the deliberative process, attorney work-product, attorney-client, and commercial information privileges. Approximately 32 pages contain redactions under Exemption 5 because they qualify to be withheld under the following privileges:

Deliberative Process Privilege

The deliberative process privilege protects the decision-making process of government agencies and encourages the frank exchange of ideas on legal or policy matters by ensuring agencies are not forced to operate in a fishbowl. A number of policy purposes have been attributed to the deliberative process privilege, such as: (1) assuring that subordinates will feel free to provide the decisionmaker with their uninhibited opinions and recommendations; (2) protecting against premature disclosure of proposed policies; and (3) protecting against confusing the issues and misleading the public.

The deliberative process privilege protects materials that are both predecisional and deliberative. The privilege covers records that reflect the give-and-take of the consultative process and may include recommendations, draft documents, proposals, suggestions, and other subjective documents which reflect the personal opinions of the writer rather than the policy of the agency.

The materials that have been withheld under the deliberative process privilege of Exemption 5 are both predecisional and deliberative. They do not contain or represent formal or informal agency policies or decisions. They are the result of frank and open discussions between the Department of the Interior and other federal agencies. Their contents have been held confidential by all parties and public dissemination of this information would have a chilling effect on the government's deliberative processes; expose the government's decision-making

process in such a way as to discourage candid discussion within the government, and thereby undermine the government's ability to perform its mandated functions.

The deliberative process privilege does not apply to records created 25 years or more before the date on which the records were requested.

Attorney-Client Privilege

The attorney-client privilege protects confidential communications between an attorney and his client relating to a legal matter for which the client has sought professional advice and is not limited to the context of litigation. Moreover, although it fundamentally applies to confidential facts divulged by a client to his/her attorney, this privilege also encompasses any opinions given by an attorney to his/her client based upon, and thus reflecting, those facts, as well as communications between attorneys that reflect confidential client-supplied information.

The information that has been withheld under the attorney-client privilege of Exemption 5 constitutes confidential communications between federal attorneys and agency clients, related to legal matters for which the client sought professional legal assistance and services. It also encompasses opinions given by attorneys to their clients based on client-supplied facts about the executive order. Additionally, the Department of the Interior and Department of State employees who communicated with the attorneys regarding this information were clients of the attorneys at the time the information was generated and the attorneys were acting in their capacities as lawyers at the time they communicated legal advice. The Department of the Interior and Department of State have held this information confidential and have not waived the attorney-client privilege.

Exemption 6

Exemption 6 allows an agency to withhold "personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy." 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6). The phrase "similar files" covers any agency records containing information about a particular individual that can be identified as applying to that individual. To determine whether releasing records containing information about a particular individual would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, we are required to balance the privacy interest that would be affected by disclosure against any public interest in the information.

Under the FOIA, the only relevant public interest to consider under the exemption is the extent to which the information sought would shed light on agency's performance of its statutory duties or otherwise let citizens "know what their government is up to." The burden is on the requester to establish that disclosure would serve the public interest. When the privacy interest at stake and the public interest in disclosure have been determined, the two competing interests must be weighed against one another to determine which is the greater result of disclosure: the harm to personal privacy or the benefit to the public. The purposes for which the request for information is made do not impact this balancing test, as a release of information requested under the FOIA constitutes a release to the general public.

The information that has been withheld under Exemption 6 consists of: personal mobile phone numbers; email addresses of military personnel; email addresses, mobile, and office phone numbers of National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration personnel; and, names and identifying information of State Department personnel. We have determined that the individuals to whom the information pertains have a substantial privacy interest in withholding it. Additionally, you have not provided information that explains a relevant public interest under the FOIA in the disclosure of this personal information and we have determined that the disclosure of this information would shed little or no light on the performance of the agency's statutory duties. Because the harm to personal privacy is greater than whatever public interest may be served by disclosure, release of the information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of the privacy of these individuals and we are withholding the information under Exemption 6. Approximately 60 pages have been redacted under exemption 6.

Judy Cearley, Government Information Specialist, is responsible for this partial denial. Jennifer Heindl, Attorney Advisor with the Department of Interior, Office of the Solicitor, was consulted regarding this response. We will provide you with your full appeal rights in our final response. By agreeing to withhold your appeal, you are not waiving your right to appeal my final decision.

We are continuing to process responsive records. We are still waiting for a response to our consultation request from other federal agencies. We believe Exemption 6 may apply to the remaining records, therefore, the records will need to go through legal review with the Department of the Interior, Office of the Solicitor. We will issue a final response once legal review is completed.

If you have any questions about our response to your request, please contact me by email at jcearley@usgs.gov.

Sincerely,

**JUDY
CEARLEY**

Digitally signed by
JUDY CEARLEY
Date: 2025.09.09
06:44:31 -07'00'

Judy Cearley
U.S. Geological Survey
Government Information Specialist

Enclosure:

First Interim Combined Records_Redacted.pdf (119 pages)

From: Tara Wallace - NOAA Federal
To: Tischler, Michael A; Zahniser, Shellie R
Cc: Thaddeus Ellerbe - NOAA Federal
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: EO - Gulf of America
Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 4:48:25 AM

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Good morning - I am sure you are very aware of this pending FR.
Thanks

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Julia Powell - NOAA Federal <(b) (6) @noaa.gov>
Date: Tue, Jan 21, 2025 at 7:40 AM
Subject: EO - Gulf of America
To: Darien Watkins - NOAA Federal <(b) (6) @noaa.gov>, Winn, Craig
<(b) (6) @noaa.gov>, Akers, Brian <(b) (6) @noaa.gov>, Wallace, Tara
<(b) (6) @noaa.gov>, Ence, Christie <(b) (6) @noaa.gov>
Cc: Michael Doig - NOAA Federal <(b) (6) @noaa.gov>

Hi All -

This will be published in the FR some time this week.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/restoring-names-that-honor-american-greatness/>

I'm wondering if there is a way to globally change this in the NIS and then as we put out a new product it will update that way.

Let's discuss after the MCD Production meeting (if we have time).

Julia

--
Chief, Marine Chart Division
Office of Coast Survey
NOAA

Mobile: (b) (6)

Any mention of a commercial product is for informational purposes and does not constitute an endorsement by the U.S. Government or any of its employees or contractors.

--

Tara Wallace, Branch Chief

Production Branch B, Marine Chart Division

Member, U.S. Board on Geographic Names

Office of Coast Survey, National Ocean Service

Telephone number: (b) (6)

Telework hours: 6:30 am - 3:00 pm est



From: [Tischler, Michael A](#)
To: (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) [NGA-ATCDQ USA CIV](#)
Cc: (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) [NGA-ATCDQ USA CIV](#); (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) [NGA-ATCDQ USA CIV](#); (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) [NGA-SFGGW USA CIV](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Denali or Mt. McKinley
Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 6:53:12 AM
Attachments: [EXTERNAL Denali or Mt. McKinley.msg](#)

Hi (b) (3) (B), (b) (6),

Thanks for the inquiry. To date, the BGN does not have an official statement or response. I am working with the USGS communications staff to determine any appropriate action.

Thanks,
Mike

From: (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) [NGA-ATCDQ USA CIV](#) <(b) (3) (B), (b) (6)>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 9:48 AM
To: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Cc: (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) [NGA-ATCDQ USA CIV](#) <(b) (3) (B), (b) (6)>; (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) [NGA-ATCDQ USA CIV](#) <(b) (3) (B), (b) (6)>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Denali or Mt. McKinley

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

From: Tara Wallace - NOAA Federal
To: Tischler, Michael A
Cc: O'Donnell, Matthew J; Zahniser, Shellie R; Thaddeus Ellerbe - NOAA Federal
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Executive Order - Gulf
Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 10:31:37 AM

Many thanks Mike -

On Tue, Jan 21, 2025 at 1:29 PM Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov> wrote:
Hi Tara,

As Matt mentioned, we are waiting on additional guidance from DOI. Once I have that, it should not take long to update GNIS (both McKinley and GOA) at which point we can notify the board that the changes have been made.

Thanks,
m

From: Tara Wallace - NOAA Federal <(b) (6)@noaa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 1:04 PM
To: O'Donnell, Matthew J <mjodonnell@usgs.gov>
Cc: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>; Thaddeus Ellerbe - NOAA Federal <(b) (6)@noaa.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Executive Order - Gulf

Thanks Matt ~

On Tue, Jan 21, 2025 at 1:03 PM O'Donnell, Matthew J <mjodonnell@usgs.gov> wrote:
We are waiting for USGS/DOI guidance on the process.

Matt

From: Tara Wallace - NOAA Federal <(b) (6)@noaa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 1:01 PM
To: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>; O'Donnell, Matthew J <mjodonnell@usgs.gov>
Cc: Thaddeus Ellerbe - NOAA Federal <(b) (6)@noaa.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Executive Order - Gulf

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Good afternoon -

The Executive Order states "The Board shall provide guidance..." - will there actually be any guidance from the Board? Do you know how long it will take to update the GNIS?

NOAA - Marine Chart Division is gearing up to update our charts and release them.

Thanks,
Tara

--

Tara Wallace, Branch Chief
Production Branch B, Marine Chart Division
Member, U.S. Board on Geographic Names
Office of Coast Survey, National Ocean Service
Telephone number: (b) (6)
Telework hours: 6:30 am - 3:00 pm est



--

Tara Wallace, Branch Chief
Production Branch B, Marine Chart Division
Member, U.S. Board on Geographic Names
Office of Coast Survey, National Ocean Service
Telephone number: (b) (6)
Telework hours: 6:30 am - 3:00 pm est



--

Tara Wallace, Branch Chief
Production Branch B, Marine Chart Division
Member, U.S. Board on Geographic Names
Office of Coast Survey, National Ocean Service
Telephone number: (b) (6)
Telework hours: 6:30 am - 3:00 pm est

From: [Tischler, Michael A](#)
To: (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) NGA-SF USA CIV; (b) (6) (b) (6) @state.gov
Subject: Interior press release
Date: Friday, January 24, 2025 11:00:18 AM

Hi Folks,

Wanted to make you aware of the press release issued by DOI :

[Interior Department Advances Restoration of Historic Names Honoring American Greatness | U.S. Department of the Interior](#)

Thanks,
m

Mike Tischler, Ph.D
Director, National Geospatial Program
U.S. Geological Survey
Department of Interior
o: 703-648-4725
c: 703-344-4348
mtischler@usgs.gov

From: Tischler, Michael A
To: St Onge, Timothy
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Invitation to speak with Congressional Research Service
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 7:47:06 AM

ok, thanks! I'll talk w/our congressional affairs about the request to meet. usually they want to get involved...

From: St Onge, Timothy <tong@loc.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 10:45 AM
To: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Invitation to speak with Congressional Research Service

Hi Mike,

I took the compiled feedback from DNC staff (email attachment from last Friday authored by Shellie and Matt) and FNC (b) (3) (b), (b) (6) Monday email) to provide to CRS. This was after talking with Shellie following the Office Hours session yesterday, in which she also said to provide the bgnextec email so that the CRS analysts could reach out directly to discuss these points with Shellie and Matt, which it seems they now have.

Thanks,
Tim

Tim St. Onge
Cartographer
Geography & Map Division
LM-B02
202-707-9044
tong@loc.gov



From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 10:38 AM
To: St Onge, Timothy <tong@loc.gov>
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Invitation to speak with Congressional Research Service

CAUTION: This email message has been received from an external source. Please use caution when opening attachments, or clicking on links.

Hi Tim,

Was it you that provided feedback? I don't think we sent anything up on our end...

From: BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC <bgnexec@usgs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 10:30 AM
To: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Invitation to speak with Congressional Research Service

From: Normand, Anna E <ANORMAND@crs.loc.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 10:26 AM
To: BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC <bgnexec@usgs.gov>
Cc: Desantis, Mark K <MDESANTIS@crs.loc.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Invitation to speak with Congressional Research Service

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Greetings,

CRS received feedback on our product, Trump Administration Actions: Geographic Naming, from members of the BGN. We appreciate the time and attention BGN members spent on providing helpful comments and clarifications. We have worked on revising parts of the piece related to the feedback. We were provided this email to contact BGN staff directly. If certain BGN staff wanted to meet virtually to further discuss the piece before updating, we are free after 2 pm today or tomorrow morning before 11 am.

Thanks,

Anna



Anna Evangeline Normand, Ph.D.
Specialist in Natural Resources Policy
Congressional Research Service
anormand@crs.loc.gov
202-707-9846 (o)

From: [Tischler, Michael A](#)
To: [BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC](#); [Zahniser, Shellie R](#); [ANORMAND@crs.loc.gov](#); [Tim St. Onge](#); (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) [NGA-SF USA CIV](#)
Cc: [Elms, Thomas \(Tommy\)](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Invitation to speak with Congressional Research Service
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 7:55:35 AM

Good morning, Anna,

Thank you for reaching out, and taking our comments under consideration. I think it would be good to include a few of us on a call, who I've added in the To: line.

Would 3:30pm or 4pm ET work for the BGN members/staff?

Thanks,
mike

From: BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC <bgnexec@usgs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 10:30 AM
To: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Invitation to speak with Congressional Research Service

From: Normand, Anna E <ANORMAND@crs.loc.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 10:26 AM
To: BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC <bgnexec@usgs.gov>
Cc: Desantis, Mark K <MDESANTIS@crs.loc.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Invitation to speak with Congressional Research Service

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Greetings,

CRS received feedback on our product, Trump Administration Actions: Geographic Naming, from members of the BGN. We appreciate the time and attention BGN members spent on providing helpful comments and clarifications. We have worked on revising parts of the piece related to the feedback. We were provided this email to contact BGN staff directly. If certain BGN staff wanted to meet virtually to further discuss the piece before updating, we are free after 2 pm today or tomorrow morning before 11 am.

Thanks,

Anna



Anna Evangeline Normand, Ph.D.
Specialist in Natural Resources Policy
Congressional Research Service
anormand@crs.loc.gov
202-707-9846 (o)

From: [Tischler, Michael A](#)
To: [Tara Wallace - NOAA Federal](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] EO Question
Date: Wednesday, January 29, 2025 6:02:47 AM

Hi Tara,

Can you do a teams call?

Thanks,
m

From: Tara Wallace - NOAA Federal (b) (6) @noaa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2025 8:50 AM
To: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] EO Question

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Good morning Mike ~

The EO says that the BGN will "provide guidance to ensure all federal references to the Gulf of America, including on agency maps, contracts, and other documents and communications shall reflect its renaming."

Will the agencies be given guidance?

Thanks,
tara

Tara Wallace, Branch Chief
Production Branch B, Marine Chart Division
Member, U.S. Board on Geographic Names
Office of Coast Survey, National Ocean Service
Telephone number: (b) (6)
Telework hours: 6:30 am - 3:00 pm est



From: [Kanalley, Betsy - FS, DC](#)
To: [Tischler, Michael A](#)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Connecting - USDA and USGS
Date: Thursday, January 30, 2025 2:35:54 PM

Thanks, Mike.

From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2025 5:33 PM
To: Kanalley, Betsy - FS, DC <Elizabeth.Kanalley@usda.gov>
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Connecting - USDA and USGS

Hi Betsy- see below...not sure what it's about.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
[Get Outlook for Android](#)

From: Ryker, Sarah J <sryker@usgs.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2025 5:13:55 PM
To: Goldey, Ben <Ben.Goldey@mail.house.gov>
Cc: Lacey, Jennifer A <jlacey@usgs.gov>; Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; Onizuk, Jeffrey M <jonizuk@usgs.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Connecting - USDA and USGS

Ben,

Thanks for reaching out, and it's lovely to hear Aubrey's name.

Happy to make connections. Jenn Lacey, CCed, is our Associate Director for Core Science Systems and oversees USGS support to the Board on Geographic Names. Mike Tischler chairs the BGN. And FYI, Betsy Kannalley is the USDA member (elizabeth.kanalley@usda.gov).

I'll CC USGS Congressional Affairs just for awareness.

All my best for 2025 –

Sarah J Ryker, PhD
Acting Director, U.S. Geological Survey
sryker@usgs.gov

From: Goldey, Ben <Ben.Goldey@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2025 10:49 AM
To: Ryker, Sarah J <sryker@usgs.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Connecting - USDA and USGS

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Hi Sarah,

Nice to meet you, I got your name from Aubrey Bettencourt as a good person to reach out to. I also worked at Interior during 2020 and love the work USGS does!

I'm trying to connect someone at USDA with USGS on an issue related to the Board of Geographic Names. Could I connect her with your team?

Thanks,

Ben

Ben Goldey
Communications Director
House Agriculture Committee – Republicans
Chairman Glenn "GT" Thompson

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From: Tischler, Michael A
To: Delmonico, Joshua J
Cc: Kim Valentine; Nathan Jones (CENSUS/GEO FED); Tony LaVoi - NOAA Federal; Tara Wallace - NOAA Federal
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] EO Question - Name Changes
Date: Wednesday, February 5, 2025 6:07:28 AM

Hi Tony,

I'm happy to give you the rundown, but would prefer to do it over the phone. Give me a ring at 703-344-4348 if you get a minute.

Alternatively, I've been in touch with the BGN member representing Commerce on a regular basis. Tara can also let you know how we are responding.

Thanks,
m

From: Delmonico, Joshua J <jdelmonico@usgs.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2025 9:04 AM
To: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Cc: Kim Valentine (b) (6) @noaa.gov; Nathan Jones (CENSUS/GEO FED) <Nathan.Jones@census.gov>; Tony LaVoi - NOAA Federal <(b) (6) @noaa.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] EO Question - Name Changes

Hi Mike,
Can you answer Tony's question?
Thanks.
Josh

From: Tony LaVoi - NOAA Federal <(b) (6) @noaa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2025 8:04 AM
To: Delmonico, Joshua J <jdelmonico@usgs.gov>
Cc: Kim Valentine (b) (6) @noaa.gov; Nathan Jones (CENSUS/GEO FED) <Nathan.Jones@census.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] EO Question - Name Changes

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Josh-

Do you happen to know how Interior, as well as any of the FGDC agencies, are handling these

EO requirements for name changes? <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/restoring-names-that-honor-american-greatness/>

Thanks-

Tony

Tony LaVoi

NOAA Chief Data Officer (CDO)

(b) (6)

(b) (6) [\[REDACTED\]@noaa.gov](mailto:[REDACTED]@noaa.gov)

From: (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) NGA-SFGGW USA CIV
To: Tischler, Michael A; Forrest, Brenda-Anne (Judiciary-Rep); St Onge, Timothy; elizabeth.kanalley@usda.gov; melanie.riley@usda.gov; alexander.stum@usda.gov; Wallace, Tara L CIV (USA) [I-Net]; Allen, Kenia Y CIV (USA) [I-Net]; Ellerbe, Thaddeus A CIV (USA) [I-Net]; Rikki.wortham@census.gov; Lyon, Susan L CIV USARMY CEERD-TEC (USA) [I-Net]; Griffin, Andrew W (Drew) CIV USARMY CEERD-TEC (USA) [I-Net]; Meghan.Barrett@hq.dhs.gov; Hammond, Chris W; Brown, Wendi-Starr; Mahoney, Patrick M; Konzek, Daniel S; Shelton, Michael; Black, Marielle L; Smith, Jeremy C; Hasier, Paulette; Ranieri, Veronica; alesha.t.perdomo@usps.gov; liz.flake@usps.gov
Cc: Zahniser, Shellie R
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: BGN-DNC: Comms Guidance - Renaming via Executive/Congressional Action
Date: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 8:44:54 AM
Attachments: image001.jpg

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//FOUO
=====

Same here as well.

(b) (3) (B), (b) (6)

(b) (3) (B), (b) (6)

Vice Chair, U.S. Board on Geographic Names
Member, BGN Domestic Names and Foreign Names Committees
Member, BGN Foreign Names Committee
National Geospatial Intelligence Agency

(b) (3) (B), (b) (6) Office
(b) (3) (B), (b) (6) Telework

From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 10:43 AM
To: Forrest, Brenda-Anne (Judiciary-Rep) <Brenda-Anne_Forrest@judiciary-rep.senate.gov>; St Onge, Timothy <tong@loc.gov>; elizabeth.kanalley@usda.gov; melanie.riley@usda.gov; alexander.stum@usda.gov; Wallace, Tara L CIV (USA) [I-Net] <tara.wallace@noaa.gov>; Allen, Kenia Y CIV (USA) [I-Net] <kenia.allen@noaa.gov>; Ellerbe, Thaddeus A CIV (USA) [I-Net] <thaddeus.ellerbe@noaa.gov>; Rikki.wortham@census.gov; Lyon, Susan L CIV USARMY CEERD-TEC (USA) [I-Net] (b) (6) >; Griffin, Andrew W (Drew) CIV USARMY CEERD-TEC (USA) [I-Net] (b) (6) >; (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) NGA-SFGGW USA CIV <(b) (3) (B), (b) (6) >; Meghan.Barrett@hq.dhs.gov; Hammond, Chris W <chammond@usgs.gov>; Brown, Wendi-Starr <Wendi-Starr.Brown@bia.gov>; Mahoney, Patrick M <pmmahone@blm.gov>; Konzek, Daniel S <daniel_konzek@fws.gov>; Shelton, Michael <Michael_Shelton@nps.gov>; Black, Marielle L <mblack@usbr.gov>; Smith, Jeremy C <Jeremy.Smith@boem.gov>; Hasier, Paulette <phasier@loc.gov>; Ranieri, Veronica <vera@loc.gov>; alesha.t.perdomo@usps.gov; liz.flake@usps.gov
Cc: Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: BGN-DNC: Comms Guidance - Renaming via Executive/Congressional Action

Good morning (again),

I will add that, as of this morning, the comms guidance to USGS employees has not changed. We are still being asked not to respond to any media inquiries at this time.

Thanks,
m

From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 10:39 AM

To: Forrest, Brenda-Anne (Judiciary-Rep) <Brenda-Anne_Forrest@judiciary-rep.senate.gov>; St Onge, Timothy <tong@loc.gov>; elizabeth.kanalley@usda.gov <elizabeth.kanalley@usda.gov>; melanie.riley@usda.gov <melanie.riley@usda.gov>; alexander.stum@usda.gov <alexander.stum@usda.gov>; tara.wallace@noaa.gov <tara.wallace@noaa.gov>; kenia.allen@noaa.gov <kenia.allen@noaa.gov>; thaddeus.ellerbe@noaa.gov <thaddeus.ellerbe@noaa.gov>; Rikki.wortham@census.gov <Rikki.wortham@census.gov>;

(b) (6) - Susan Lyon <(b) (6) - Susan Lyon >; (b) (6) Andrew Griffin

<(b) (6) Andrew Griffin >; (b) (3) (B), (b) (6)

Meghan.Barrett@hq.dhs.gov <Meghan.Barrett@hq.dhs.gov>; Hammond, Chris W <chammond@usgs.gov>; Brown, Wendi-Starr <Wendi-Starr.Brown@bia.gov>; Mahoney, Patrick M <pmmahone@blm.gov>; Konzek, Daniel S <daniel_konzek@fws.gov>; Shelton, Michael <Michael_Shelton@nps.gov>; Black, Marielle L <mblack@usbr.gov>; Smith, Jeremy C <Jeremy.Smith@boem.gov>; Hasier, Paulette <phasier@loc.gov>; Ranieri, Veronica <vera@loc.gov>; alesha.t.perdomo@usps.gov <alesha.t.perdomo@usps.gov>; liz.flake@usps.gov <liz.flake@usps.gov>

Cc: Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: BGN-DNC: Comms Guidance - Renaming via Executive/Congressional Action

Hi B.C.,

I will defer to Tim as it's his meeting, but I would be reluctant to discuss the implementation of this action during a meeting open to the public. I would suggest instead that we hold the discussion as part of the full board meeting next week. If you feel we need to discuss the issue prior to next week's full board meeting, we can certainly try to accommodate.

In general, I am awaiting official implementation instruction from the Secretary of the Interior before performing any renaming action.

Thanks,
m

From: Forrest, Brenda-Anne (Judiciary-Rep) <Brenda-Anne_Forrest@judiciary-rep.senate.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 6:34 PM

To: St Onge, Timothy <tong@loc.gov>; elizabeth.kanalley@usda.gov <elizabeth.kanalley@usda.gov>; melanie.riley@usda.gov <melanie.riley@usda.gov>; alexander.stum@usda.gov <alexander.stum@usda.gov>; tara.wallace@noaa.gov <tara.wallace@noaa.gov>; kenia.allen@noaa.gov <kenia.allen@noaa.gov>; thaddeus.ellerbe@noaa.gov <thaddeus.ellerbe@noaa.gov>; Rikki.wortham@census.gov <Rikki.wortham@census.gov>; (b) (6) - Susan Lyon <(b) (6) - Susan Lyon>; (b) (6) Andrew Griffin <(b) (6) Andrew Griffin>; (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) <(b) (3) (B), (b) (6)>; Meghan.Barrett@hq.dhs.gov <Meghan.Barrett@hq.dhs.gov>; Hammond, Chris W <chammond@usgs.gov>; Brown, Wendi-Starr <Wendi-Starr.Brown@bia.gov>; Mahoney, Patrick M <pmmahone@blm.gov>; Konzek, Daniel S <daniel_konzek@fws.gov>; Shelton, Michael <Michael_Shelton@nps.gov>; Black, Marielle L <mblack@usbr.gov>; Smith, Jeremy C <Jeremy.Smith@boem.gov>; Hasier, Paulette <phasier@loc.gov>; Ranieri, Veronica <vera@loc.gov>; alesha.t.perdomo@usps.gov <alesha.t.perdomo@usps.gov>; liz.flake@usps.gov <liz.flake@usps.gov>

Cc: Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>; Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: BGN-DNC: Comms Guidance - Renaming via Executive/Congressional Action

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Good evening, Chair St. Onge.:

Re: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/restoring-names-that-honor-american-greatness/>

Permission to discuss Section 2(a) of yesterday's Presidential EO at next Tuesday's BGN FB 295 meeting? Or advance the request to appropriate leadership? OFR assigned 14170 as the number for this signed EO.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
B.C. Forrest

U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary | 164 Dirksen Senate Office Building | Washington, DC 20510-6275 | Brenda-Anne_Forrest@judiciary-rep.senate.gov

From: St Onge, Timothy <tong@loc.gov>

Sent: Friday, January 10, 2025 9:39 AM

To: elizabeth.kanalley@usda.gov; melanie.riley@usda.gov; alexander.stum@usda.gov; tara.wallace@noaa.gov; kenia.allen@noaa.gov; thaddeus.ellerbe@noaa.gov; Rikki.wortham@census.gov; (b) (6) - Susan Lyon <(b) (6) - Susan Lyon>; (b) (6) Andrew Griffin <(b) (6) Andrew Griffin>; (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) <(b) (3) (B), (b) (6)>; Forrest, Brenda-Anne (Judiciary-Rep) <Brenda-Anne_Forrest@judiciary-rep.senate.gov>; Meghan.Barrett@hq.dhs.gov; chammond@usgs.gov; Wendi-Starr.Brown@bia.gov;

pmmahone@blm.gov; daniel_konzek@fws.gov; Michael_Shelton@nps.gov; mblack@usbr.gov; Jeremy.Smith@boem.gov; Hasier, Paulette <phasier@loc.gov>; Ranieri, Veronica <vera@loc.gov>; St Onge, Timothy <tong@loc.gov>; alesha.t.perdomo@usps.gov; liz.flake@usps.gov
Cc: Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>; Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Subject: BGN-DNC: Comms Guidance - Renaming via Executive/Congressional Action

Good morning DNC members and deputy members,

I'm passing along the following guidance (below) from our BGN Chair Mike Tischler, regarding media inquiries relating to renaming a geographic feature via executive or congressional action. Please read and let Mike or I know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Tim

Tim St. Onge
Cartographer

Geography & Map Division
LM-B02
202-707-9044
tong@loc.gov

LOC_Logo_EmailSignature



From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2025 5:30 PM

To: (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) NGA-SF USA CIV <(b) (3) (B), (b) (6)>; (b) (6) <(b) (6)@state.gov>; Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>; St Onge, Timothy <tong@loc.gov>; (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) NGA-SFGGW USA CIV <(b) (3) (B), (b) (6)>

Subject: Comms - renaming via executive action

CAUTION: This email message has been received from an external source. Please use caution when opening attachments, or clicking on links.

Good afternoon BGN Excom,

I'd like to share the communications guidance that the BGN staff has been given by USGS and ask that you please share this with your standing committees and advisory committees (DNC, FNC, ACAN, ACUF).

USGS has received multiple media inquiries regarding the process associated with renaming a feature via executive or congressional action (e.g., executive order, act of

congress). We have been instructed not to respond - at all - to media inquiries about this topic at this time. That guidance may change in the future, but that is our current direction.

Should any members of the BGN committees receive media inquiries, I would encourage them to follow the same guidance if they are able.

For internal reference, I am sure you are all aware that the [Policy on Names Considered or Established by Congress or the President](#) notes that "Geographic names and their applications specifically established by an act of Congress or Executive order are legally official, and therefore, are not bound by BGN principles, policies, and procedures." This includes name changes. For any names established by an act of Congress or Executive order (or proclamation), the name is entered into/changed in GNIS once official. Federal data sources are updated from GNIS on their own data refresh cycles.

Thank you!
Mike

Mike Tischler, Ph.D
Director, National Geospatial Program
U.S. Geological Survey
Department of Interior
o: 703-648-4725
c: 703-344-4348
mtischler@usgs.gov

=====
Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//FOUO

From: [Forrest, Brenda-Anne \(Judiciary-Rep\)](#)
To: [Tischler, Michael A](#); [St Onge, Timothy](#); [elizabeth.kanalley@usda.gov](#); [melanie.riley@usda.gov](#); [alexander.stum@usda.gov](#); [tara.wallace@noaa.gov](#); [kenia.allen@noaa.gov](#); [thaddeus.ellerbe@noaa.gov](#); [Rikki.wortham@census.gov](#); [\(b\) \(6\) - Susan Lyon](#); [\(b\) \(6\) Andrew Griffin](#); [\(b\) \(3\) \(B\), \(b\) \(6\)](#); [Meghan.Barrett@hq.dhs.gov](#); [Hammond, Chris W](#); [Brown, Wendi-Starr](#); [Mahoney, Patrick M](#); [Konzek, Daniel S](#); [Shelton, Michael](#); [Black, Marielle L](#); [Smith, Jeremy C](#); [Hasier, Paulette](#); [Ranieri, Veronica](#); [alesha.t.perdomo@usps.gov](#); [liz.flake@usps.gov](#)
Cc: [Zahniser, Shellie R](#)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: BGN-DNC: Comms Guidance - Renaming via Executive/Congressional Action
Date: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 9:05:25 AM

Thank you, Mike.

That action would meet my prior request.

Have a great day,

B.C. Forrest

U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary | 164 Dirksen Senate Office Building | Washington, DC 20510-6275 | [Brenda-Anne Forrest@judiciary-rep.senate.gov](#)

From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 10:40 AM
To: Forrest, Brenda-Anne (Judiciary-Rep) <Brenda-Anne_Forrest@judiciary-rep.senate.gov>; St Onge, Timothy <tong@loc.gov>; elizabeth.kanalley@usda.gov; melanie.riley@usda.gov; alexander.stum@usda.gov; tara.wallace@noaa.gov; kenia.allen@noaa.gov; thaddeus.ellerbe@noaa.gov; Rikki.wortham@census.gov; [\(b\) \(6\) - Susan Lyon](#); [\(b\) \(6\) Andrew Griffin](#); [\(b\) \(3\) \(B\), \(b\) \(6\)](#); Meghan.Barrett@hq.dhs.gov; Hammond, Chris W <chammond@usgs.gov>; Brown, Wendi-Starr <Wendi-Starr.Brown@bia.gov>; Mahoney, Patrick M <pmmahone@blm.gov>; Konzek, Daniel S <daniel_konzek@fws.gov>; Shelton, Michael <Michael_Shelton@nps.gov>; Black, Marielle L <mblack@usbr.gov>; Smith, Jeremy C <Jeremy.Smith@boem.gov>; Hasier, Paulette <phasier@loc.gov>; Ranieri, Veronica <vera@loc.gov>; alesha.t.perdomo@usps.gov; liz.flake@usps.gov
Cc: Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: BGN-DNC: Comms Guidance - Renaming via Executive/Congressional Action

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I will defer to Tim as it's his meeting, but I would be reluctant to discuss the implementation of this action during a meeting open to the public. I would suggest instead that we hold the discussion as part of the full board meeting next week. If you feel we need to discuss the issue prior to next week's full board meeting, we can certainly try to accommodate.

In general, I am awaiting official implementation instruction from the Secretary of the Interior before performing any renaming action.

Thanks,
m

From: Forrest, Brenda-Anne (Judiciary-Rep) <Brenda-Anne_Forrest@judiciary-rep.senate.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 6:34 PM
To: St Onge, Timothy <tong@loc.gov>; elizabeth.kanalley@usda.gov <elizabeth.kanalley@usda.gov>; melanie.riley@usda.gov <melanie.riley@usda.gov>; alexander.stum@usda.gov <alexander.stum@usda.gov>; tara.wallace@noaa.gov <tara.wallace@noaa.gov>; kenia.allen@noaa.gov <kenia.allen@noaa.gov>; thaddeus.ellerbe@noaa.gov <thaddeus.ellerbe@noaa.gov>; Rikki.wortham@census.gov <Rikki.wortham@census.gov>; (b) (6) - Susan Lyon <(b) (6) - Susan Lyon>; (b) (6) Andrew Griffin <(b) (6) Andrew Griffin>; (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) <(b) (3) (B), (b) (6)>; Meghan.Barrett@hq.dhs.gov <Meghan.Barrett@hq.dhs.gov>; Hammond, Chris W <chammond@usgs.gov>; Brown, Wendi-Starr <Wendi-Starr.Brown@bia.gov>; Mahoney, Patrick M <pmmahone@blm.gov>; Konzek, Daniel S <daniel_konzek@fws.gov>; Shelton, Michael <Michael_Shelton@nps.gov>; Black, Marielle L <mblack@usbr.gov>; Smith, Jeremy C <Jeremy.Smith@boem.gov>; Hasier, Paulette <phasier@loc.gov>; Ranieri, Veronica <vera@loc.gov>; alesha.t.perdomo@usps.gov <alesha.t.perdomo@usps.gov>; liz.flake@usps.gov <liz.flake@usps.gov>
Cc: Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>; Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: BGN-DNC: Comms Guidance - Renaming via Executive/Congressional Action

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Good evening, Chair St. Onge.:

Re: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/restoring-names-that-honor-american-greatness/>

Permission to discuss Section 2(a) of yesterday's Presidential EO at next Tuesday's BGN FB 295 meeting? Or advance the request to appropriate leadership? OFR assigned 14170 as the number for this signed EO.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
B.C. Forrest

U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary | 164 Dirksen Senate Office Building | Washington, DC 20510-6275 | Brenda-Anne_Forrest@judiciary-rep.senate.gov

From: St Onge, Timothy <tong@loc.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 10, 2025 9:39 AM
To: elizabeth.kanalley@usda.gov; melanie.riley@usda.gov; alexander.stum@usda.gov; tara.wallace@noaa.gov; kenia.allen@noaa.gov; thaddeus.ellerbe@noaa.gov; Rikki.wortham@census.gov; (b) (6) - Susan Lyon <(b) (6) - Susan Lyon>; (b) (6) Andrew Griffin <(b) (6) Andrew Griffin>; (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) <(b) (3) (B), (b) (6)>; Forrest, Brenda-Anne (Judiciary-Rep) <Brenda-Anne_Forrest@judiciary-rep.senate.gov>

rep.senate.gov>; Meghan.Barrett@hq.dhs.gov; chammond@usgs.gov; Wendi-Starr.Brown@bia.gov; pmmahone@blm.gov; daniel_konzek@fws.gov; Michael_Shelton@nps.gov; mblack@usbr.gov; Jeremy.Smith@boem.gov; Hasier, Paulette <phasier@loc.gov>; Ranieri, Veronica <vera@loc.gov>; St Onge, Timothy <tong@loc.gov>; alesha.t.perdomo@usps.gov; liz.flake@usps.gov

Cc: Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>; Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>

Subject: BGN-DNC: Comms Guidance - Renaming via Executive/Congressional Action

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Thank you,
Tim

Tim St. Onge
Cartographer

Geography & Map Division
LM-B02
202-707-9044
tong@loc.gov



From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2025 5:30 PM

To: (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) NGA-SF USA CIV (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) >; (b) (6) <(b) (6) @state.gov>; Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>; St Onge, Timothy <tong@loc.gov>; (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) NGA-SFGGW USA CIV <(b) (3) (B), (b) (6) >

Subject: Comms - renaming via executive action

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Thank you!

Mike

Mike Tischler, Ph.D
Director, National Geospatial Program
U.S. Geological Survey
Department of Interior
o: 703-648-4725
c: 703-344-4348
mtischler@usgs.gov

From: [Tischler, Michael A](#)
To: [Forrest, Brenda-Anne \(Judiciary-Rep\)](#)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: BGN-DNC: Comms Guidance - Renaming via Executive/Congressional Action
Date: Thursday, January 30, 2025 9:57:29 AM



Tischler, Michael A reacted to your message:

From: Forrest, Brenda-Anne (Judiciary-Rep) <Brenda-Anne_Forrest@judiciary-rep.senate.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2025 5:54:55 PM
To: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: BGN-DNC: Comms Guidance - Renaming via Executive/Congressional Action

You ALL rock in my book!

B.C. Forrest

U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary | 164 Dirksen Senate Office Building | Washington, DC 20510-6275 | Brenda-Anne_Forrest@judiciary-rep.senate.gov

From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2025 12:53 PM
To: Forrest, Brenda-Anne (Judiciary-Rep) <Brenda-Anne_Forrest@judiciary-rep.senate.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: BGN-DNC: Comms Guidance - Renaming via Executive/Congressional Action

Hi BC,

Thanks for the explanation! I wish I could take credit for tracking this, but (unsurprisingly) all thanks goes to Matt. He let me know of the change, to which I've alerted DOI.

Thanks!

m

From: Forrest, Brenda-Anne (Judiciary-Rep) <Brenda-Anne_Forrest@judiciary-rep.senate.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2025 12:50 PM
To: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: BGN-DNC: Comms Guidance - Renaming via Executive/Congressional Action

Hi Mike,
Yes, 14170 was the number in the queue for OFR the day the EO was signed (obtained from GPO where it gets produced), but yes, OFR updated number sequence, which they can do up to 30 days (?) after an EO is signed, and assigned 14172, made it available for public inspection, and scheduled it to be printed

tomorrow. Thank you for tracking, and you probably already have this, just adding the link here, <https://www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection/2025-02096/american-greatness-efforts-to-restore-names-honoring-eo-14172>.

Thank you, Mike, and as always, you're exceptional on the due diligence of everything BGN.

Ready to serve, if you need anything else.
B.C. Forrest

U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary | 164 Dirksen Senate Office Building | Washington, DC 20510-6275 | Brenda-Anne_Forrest@judiciary-rep.senate.gov

From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2025 8:57 AM
To: Forrest, Brenda-Anne (Judiciary-Rep) <Brenda-Anne_Forrest@judiciary-rep.senate.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: BGN-DNC: Comms Guidance - Renaming via Executive/Congressional Action

Hi BC,

Can you confirm the right EO number? Your email below says 14170, but the fed register says 14172

[Federal Register :: Public Inspection: American Greatness: Efforts To Restore Names Honoring\(EO 14172\)](#)

From: Forrest, Brenda-Anne (Judiciary-Rep) <Brenda-Anne_Forrest@judiciary-rep.senate.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 6:34 PM
To: St Onge, Timothy <tong@loc.gov>; elizabeth.kanalley@usda.gov <elizabeth.kanalley@usda.gov>; melanie.riley@usda.gov <melanie.riley@usda.gov>; alexander.stum@usda.gov <alexander.stum@usda.gov>; tara.wallace@noaa.gov <tara.wallace@noaa.gov>; kenia.allen@noaa.gov <kenia.allen@noaa.gov>; thaddeus.ellerbe@noaa.gov <thaddeus.ellerbe@noaa.gov>; Rikki.wortham@census.gov <Rikki.wortham@census.gov>; (b) (6) - Susan Lyon <(b) (6) - Susan Lyon >; (b) (6) Andrew Griffin <(b) (6) Andrew Griffin >; (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) <(b) (3) (B), (b) (6) >; Meghan.Barrett@hq.dhs.gov <Meghan.Barrett@hq.dhs.gov>; Hammond, Chris W <chammond@usgs.gov>; Brown, Wendi-Starr <Wendi-Starr.Brown@bia.gov>; Mahoney, Patrick M <pmmahone@blm.gov>; Konzek, Daniel S <daniel_konzek@fws.gov>; Shelton, Michael <Michael_Shelton@nps.gov>; Black, Marielle L <mblack@usbr.gov>; Smith, Jeremy C <Jeremy.Smith@boem.gov>; Hasier, Paulette <phasier@loc.gov>; Ranieri, Veronica <vera@loc.gov>; alesha.t.perdomo@usps.gov <alesha.t.perdomo@usps.gov>; liz.flake@usps.gov <liz.flake@usps.gov>
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U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary | 164 Dirksen Senate Office Building | Washington, DC 20510-6275 | [Brenda-Anne Forrest@judiciary.rep.senate.gov](mailto:Brenda-Anne_Forrest@judiciary.rep.senate.gov)

From: St Onge, Timothy <tong@loc.gov>

Sent: Friday, January 10, 2025 9:39 AM

To: elizabeth.kanalley@usda.gov; melanie.riley@usda.gov; alexander.stum@usda.gov; tara.wallace@noaa.gov; kenia.allen@noaa.gov; thaddeus.ellerbe@noaa.gov; Rikki.wortham@census.gov; (b) (6) - Susan Lyon; (b) (6) Andrew Griffin; (b) (3) (B), (b) (6); Forrest, Brenda-Anne (Judiciary-Rep) <Brenda-Anne_Forrest@judiciary.rep.senate.gov>; Meghan.Barrett@hq.dhs.gov; chammond@usgs.gov; Wendi-Starr.Brown@bia.gov; pmmahone@blm.gov; daniel_konzek@fws.gov; Michael_Shelton@nps.gov; mblack@usbr.gov; Jeremy.Smith@boem.gov; Hasier, Paulette <phasier@loc.gov>; Ranieri, Veronica <vera@loc.gov>; St Onge, Timothy <tong@loc.gov>; alesha.t.perdomo@usps.gov; liz.flake@usps.gov
Cc: Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>; Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Subject: BGN-DNC: Comms Guidance - Renaming via Executive/Congressional Action

Good morning DNC members and deputy members,

I'm passing along the following guidance (below) from our BGN Chair Mike Tischler, regarding media inquiries relating to renaming a geographic feature via executive or congressional action. Please read and let Mike or I know if you have any questions.

Thank you,
Tim

Tim St. Onge
Cartographer
Geography & Map Division
LM-B02

202-707-9044

tong@loc.gov



From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2025 5:30 PM

To: (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) NGA-SF USA CIV <(b) (3) (B), (b) (6)>; (b) (6) (b) (6) <state.gov>; Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>; St Onge, Timothy <tong@loc.gov>; (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) NGA-SFGGW USA CIV <(b) (3) (B), (b) (6)>

Subject: Comms - renaming via executive action

CAUTION: This email message has been received from an external source. Please use caution when opening attachments, or clicking on links.

Good afternoon BGN Excom,

I'd like to share the communications guidance that the BGN staff has been given by USGS and ask that you please share this with your standing committees and advisory committees (DNC, FNC, ACAN, ACUF).

USGS has received multiple media inquiries regarding the process associated with renaming a feature via executive or congressional action (e.g., executive order, act of congress). We have been instructed not to respond - at all - to media inquiries about this topic at this time. That guidance may change in the future, but that is our current direction.

Should any members of the BGN committees receive media inquiries, I would encourage them to follow the same guidance if they are able.

For internal reference, I am sure you are all aware that the [Policy on Names Considered or Established by Congress or the President](#) notes that "Geographic names and their applications specifically established by an act of Congress or Executive order are legally official, and therefore, are not bound by BGN principles, policies, and procedures." This includes name changes. For any names established by an act of Congress or Executive order (or proclamation), the name is entered into/changed in GNIS once official. Federal data sources are updated from GNIS on their own data refresh cycles.

Thank you!

Mike

Mike Tischler, Ph.D
Director, National Geospatial Program
U.S. Geological Survey
Department of Interior
o: 703-648-4725
c: 703-344-4348
mtischler@usgs.gov

From: [Tischler, Michael A](#)
To: (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) [NGA OCCN USA CIV](#); (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) [NGA-SFGG USA CIV](#)
Cc: [NGA Media Relations](#); (b) (6) "[\[REDACTED\]](#)"
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Message from JENNIFER KIRBY (b) (6) ()
Date: Thursday, January 23, 2025 7:37:40 AM

Hi (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) (),

We have been asked to defer all media inquiries to the Department of the Interior's press office. You can contact them at Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Thank you!

Mike

From: (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) [NGA-OCCN USA CIV](#) (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) () <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2025 10:34 AM
To: (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) [NGA-SFGG USA CIV](#) <(b) (3) (B), (b) (6) ()>
Cc: [NGA Media Relations](#) <mediarelations@nga.mil>; Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; (b) (6) () <(b) (6) ()@state.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Message from JENNIFER KIRBY (+(b) (6) ())

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

From: (b) (6)
To: [Tischler, Michael A](#)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: GOA EO
Date: Friday, January 24, 2025 6:10:06 AM

Perfect! Thanks

(b) (6)

U.S. Department of State

(b) (6)

From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2025 9:09 AM
To: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: GOA EO

on the phone with (b) (6) ...

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@state.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2025 9:08 AM
To: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: GOA EO

I tried calling (from my cell since I'm at home today) but your mailbox is full. (b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

U.S. Department of State

(b) (6)

From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2025 9:03 AM
To: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: GOA EO

Hi (b) (6)

I talked with my comms staff again this morning - give me a call if you get a chance. 703-344-4348

Thanks,
m

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@state.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2025 7:49 AM
To: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Cc: GeoNames <GeoNames@state.gov>; (b) (6) <(b) (6)@state.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: GOA EO

Thanks, Mike. If there is any shift in guidance, please let us know. We'll continue providing the guidance to refer inquiries to DOI until we hear otherwise. My Office Director, (b) (6) (cc'd), is coordinating this with State's Press Office.

(b) (6)

U.S. Department of State

(b) (6)

From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2025 7:40 PM
To: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@state.gov>
Cc: GeoNames <GeoNames@state.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: GOA EO

Hi (b) (6)

Nothing has changed. After receiving the request from NGA this morning, I spoke with the USGS communications staff to confirm guidance, including direction to comms staff at other agencies. I will confirm again tomorrow, but my instructions are still) I am not to respond personally to media and b) to defer to DOI.

I expect DOI is working on a press release and comms strategy, but I don't have any details.

I've been talking with my comms staff daily, and if any guidance changes, I will let you know as soon as I can.

Thanks

Mike

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@state.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2025 4:23 PM
To: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Cc: GeoNames <GeoNames@state.gov>; (b) (6) (b) (6)@state.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: GOA EO

Hi Mike,

It's been another busy day fielding questions left and right about the name change. In addition to the NGA press office question from this morning, I was contacted by State's Press Office this afternoon asking for an official response. I provided them the guidance you sent to NGA this morning to "defer all media inquiries to the Department of Interior's Press Office at Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov." Our Office of Press Relations responded that a reporter, in bold sized 26 font said, "***Interior told me to speak with you.***" We seem to be caught in a circular messaging wheel, but the EO explicitly designates the Secretary of the Interior as the lead on this effort.

Can you please confirm that DOI Press Office is taking these inquiries?

Thank you,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

U.S. Department of State

(b) (6)

From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 5:03 PM
To: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@state.gov>
Cc: GeoNames <GeoNames@state.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: GOA EO

Hi (b) (6)

Thanks for the follow-up. I have asked for further guidance from DOI regarding implementation, but have yet to receive anything. I will be in touch with you when I hear more, though.

Thanks,

Mike

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@state.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 4:59 PM
To: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Cc: GeoNames <GeoNames@state.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: GOA EO

Hi Mike,

(b) (5) DPP, ACP

(b) (5) DPP, ACP

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

U.S. Department of State

(b) (6)

From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 2:33 PM
To: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@state.gov>
Cc: GeoNames <GeoNames@state.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: GOA EO

Thanks, (b) (6) - appreciate the clarification, and we'll wait to hear more.

thanks,

mike

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@state.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 2:32 PM
To: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Cc: GeoNames <GeoNames@state.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: GOA EO

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Hi Mike,

(b) (5) DPP

Thanks,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

U.S. Department of State

(b) (6)

From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 1:40 PM

To: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@state.gov>

Subject: GOA EO

Hi (b) (6)

I have a question for you regarding the renaming of Gulf of America. We are awaiting DOI guidance before reflecting the change in GNIS. But, we are wondering how the feature will be reflected in GNS. The EO states that

"...The Secretary of the Interior shall...rename as the "Gulf of America" the U.S. Continental Shelf area bounded on the northeast, north, and northwest by the States of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida and extending to the seaward boundary with Mexico and Cuba in the area formerly named as the Gulf of Mexico. "

Does this definition constitute the entire Gulf? Or are we going to splitting the feature into two - Gulf of Mexico in the southern portion and Gulf of America in the northern portion?

Thanks,

Mike

Mike Tischler, Ph.D

Director, National Geospatial Program

U.S. Geological Survey

Department of Interior

o: 703-648-4725

c: 703-344-4348

.mtischler@usgs.gov

From: [Tischler, Michael A](#)
To: (b) (6) (b) (6)
Cc: [GeoNames](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: GOA EO
Date: Friday, January 24, 2025 6:45:55 AM

Hi (b) (6),

My cell number below is probably the most reliable way to reach me.

Thanks,

Mike

Mike Tischler, Ph.D
Director, National Geospatial Program
U.S. Geological Survey
Department of Interior
o: 703-648-4725
c: 703-344-4348
mtischler@usgs.gov

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@state.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2025 9:42 AM
To: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; (b) (6) <(b) (6)@state.gov>
Cc: GeoNames <GeoNames@state.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: GOA EO

Thanks! Mike, I forgot to get your office number; could you send that to me, please?

From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2025 9:27 AM
To: (b) (6) (b) (6)@state.gov; (b) (6) <(b) (6)@state.gov>
Cc: GeoNames <GeoNames@state.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: GOA EO

Hi (b) (6),

I have been told that State Dept. public affairs/comms should contact [Kathryn martin@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Kathryn.martin@ios.doi.gov) for any coordination. Kathryn is the Acting Director of Communications at the Department of the Interior.

Thanks,
m

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6) @state.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2025 9:01 AM
To: (b) (6) <(b) (6) @state.gov>; Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Cc: GeoNames <GeoNames@state.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: GOA EO

Hi Mike –

Nice to meet you (virtually)! Is there a point of contact in big Interior with whom I could coordinate on replying to press inquiries, by any chance? I don't know anyone over there, and would be grateful for any kind of a steer that you could provide.

Thanks!

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

U.S. Department of State

(b) (6), (b) (6) @state.gov

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6) E@state.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2025 7:49 AM
To: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Cc: GeoNames <GeoNames@state.gov>; (b) (6) (b) (6) @state.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: GOA EO

Thanks, Mike. If there is any shift in guidance, please let us know. We'll continue providing the guidance to refer inquiries to DOI until we hear otherwise. My Office Director, (b) (6) (cc'd), is coordinating this with State's Press Office.

(b) (6)

U.S. Department of State

(b) (6)

From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>

Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2025 7:40 PM
To: (b) (6) <(b) (6) @state.gov>
Cc: GeoNames <GeoNames@state.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: GOA EO

Hi (b) (6),

Nothing has changed. After receiving the request from NGA this morning, I spoke with the USGS communications staff to confirm guidance, including direction to comms staff at other agencies. I will confirm again tomorrow, but my instructions are still) I am not to respond personally to media and b) to defer to DOI.

I expect DOI is working on a press release and comms strategy, but I don't have any details.

I've been talking with my comms staff daily, and if any guidance changes, I will let you know as soon as I can.

Thanks
Mike

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6) @state.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2025 4:23 PM
To: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Cc: GeoNames <GeoNames@state.gov>; (b) (6) <(b) (6) @state.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: GOA EO

Hi Mike,

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Can you please confirm that DOI Press Office is taking these inquiries?

Thank you,

(b) (6)

U.S. Department of State

(b) (6)

From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 5:03 PM

To: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@state.gov>

Cc: GeoNames <GeoNames@state.gov>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: GOA EO

Hi (b) (6)

Thanks for the follow-up. I have asked for further guidance from DOI regarding implementation, but have yet to receive anything. I will be in touch with you when I hear more, though.

Thanks,
Mike

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@state.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 4:59 PM

To: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>

Cc: GeoNames <GeoNames@state.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: GOA EO

Hi Mike,

(b) (5) DPP, ACP

choose to fulfill the EO.

(b) (6)

U.S. Department of State

(b) (6)

From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 2:33 PM

To: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@state.gov>

Cc: GeoNames <GeoNames@state.gov>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: GOA EO

Thanks, (b) (6) - appreciate the clarification, and we'll wait to hear more.

thanks,

mike

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@state.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 2:32 PM

To: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>

Cc: GeoNames <GeoNames@state.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: GOA EO

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Hi Mike,

(b) (5)

Thanks,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

U.S. Department (b) (6)
202) 736-7896

From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 1:40 PM
To: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@state.gov>
Subject: GOA EO

Hi (b) (6)

I have a question for you regarding the renaming of Gulf of America. We are awaiting DOI guidance before reflecting the change in GNIS. But, we are wondering how the feature will be reflected in GNS. The EO states that

"...The Secretary of the Interior shall...rename as the "Gulf of America" the U.S. Continental Shelf area bounded on the northeast, north, and northwest by the States of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida and extending to the seaward boundary with Mexico and Cuba in the area formerly named as the Gulf of Mexico. "

Does this definition constitute the entire Gulf? Or are we going to splitting the feature into two - Gulf of Mexico in the southern portion and Gulf of America in the northern portion?

Thanks,
Mike

Mike Tischler, Ph.D
Director, National Geospatial Program
U.S. Geological Survey
Department of Interior
o: 703-648-4725
c: 703-344-4348
mtischler@usgs.gov

From: [Tischler, Michael A](#)
To: (b) (6); (b) (6)
Cc: [Zahniser, Shellie R](#)
Subject: draft SO
Date: Friday, January 24, 2025 2:53:23 PM
Attachments: [Draft S.O.docx](#)

(b) (6), (b) (6),

I've just been tasked, along with our solicitor, with putting together a draft Secretary's Order. The attached is a skeleton/strawman that we will be working on. Please let us know if there is any specific language you need to see for implementation of either/both name changes from your perspective. This is moving fast and we are expected to provide a draft on Monday.

Thanks,
mike

Mike Tischler, Ph.D
Director, National Geospatial Program
U.S. Geological Survey
Department of Interior
o: 703-648-4725
c: 703-344-4348
mtischler@usgs.gov

ORDER NO. XXXX

Subject: Implementation of Executive Order “Restoring Names That Honor American Greatness”

(b) (5) - DPP



From: [Tischler, Michael A](#)
To: (b) (6); (b) (6)
Cc: [Zahniser, Shellie R](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: draft SO
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 5:44:21 AM

Good morning, (b) (6)

Thanks for the response. We have an improved version which I will send over for your review in a few minutes.

thanks,
m,

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@state.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2025 7:50 AM
To: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; (b) (6) <(b) (6)@state.gov>
Cc: Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: draft SO

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Sorry for the multiple emails. I forgot to include in my last note (b) (5) - DPP

(b) (5) - DPP

Happy to do a call if you prefer (b) (6).

(b) (6)

U.S. Department of State
Office: (b) (6) | TW: (b) (6)

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2025 7:39 AM
To: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; (b) (6) <(b) (6)@state.gov>
Cc: Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>
Subject: RE: draft SO

Hi Mike,

My only comment is (b) (5) - DPP

(b) (5) - DPP

(b) (5) - DPP

(b) (6)

U.S. Department of State

Office: (b) (6) | TW: (b) (6)

From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>

Sent: Friday, January 24, 2025 5:53 PM

To: (b) (6) <(b) (6) @state.gov>; (b) (6) <(b) (6) @state.gov>

Cc: Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>

Subject: draft SO

(b) (6), (b) (6),

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Thanks,
mike

Mike Tischler, Ph.D

Director, National Geospatial Program

U.S. Geological Survey

Department of Interior

o: 703-648-4725

c: 703-344-4348

mtischler@usgs.gov

From: [Tischler, Michael A](#)
To: (b) (6); (b) (6)
Cc: [Zahniser, Shellie R](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: draft SO
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 5:53:09 AM
Attachments: [Draft S.O jan27.docx](#)

Hi (b) (6),

Draft SO attached for review - please do not share too broadly. (b) (5) - DPP
(b) (5) - DPP. Please let me know if you have any additional comments and edits. Feel free to give me a call (703-344-4348) to discuss, too.

Thanks,
m

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@state.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2025 7:50 AM
To: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; (b) (6); (b) (6)@state.gov>
Cc: Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: draft SO

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Sorry for the multiple emails. I forgot to include in my last note (b) (5) - DPP

(b) (5) - DPP

Happy to do a call if you prefer (b) (6).

(b) (6)

U.S. Department of State
Office: (b) (6) | TW: (b) (6)

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2025 7:39 AM
To: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; (b) (6); (b) (6)@state.gov>
Cc: Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>

Subject: RE: draft SO

Hi Mike,

My only comment is (b) (5) - DPP

(b) (5) - DPP

(b) (5) - DPP

(b) (6)

U.S. Department of State

Office: (b) (6) | TW: (b) (6)

From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>

Sent: Friday, January 24, 2025 5:53 PM

To: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@state.gov>; (b) (6) <(b) (6)@state.gov>

Cc: Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>

Subject: draft SO

(b) (6), (b) (6)

I've just been tasked, along with our solicitor, with putting together a draft Secretary's Order. The attached is a skeleton/strawman that we will be working on. Please let us know if there is any specific language you need to see for implementation of either/both name changes from your perspective. This is moving fast and we are expected to provide a draft on Monday.

Thanks,
mike

Mike Tischler, Ph.D

Director, National Geospatial Program

U.S. Geological Survey

Department of Interior

o: 703-648-4725

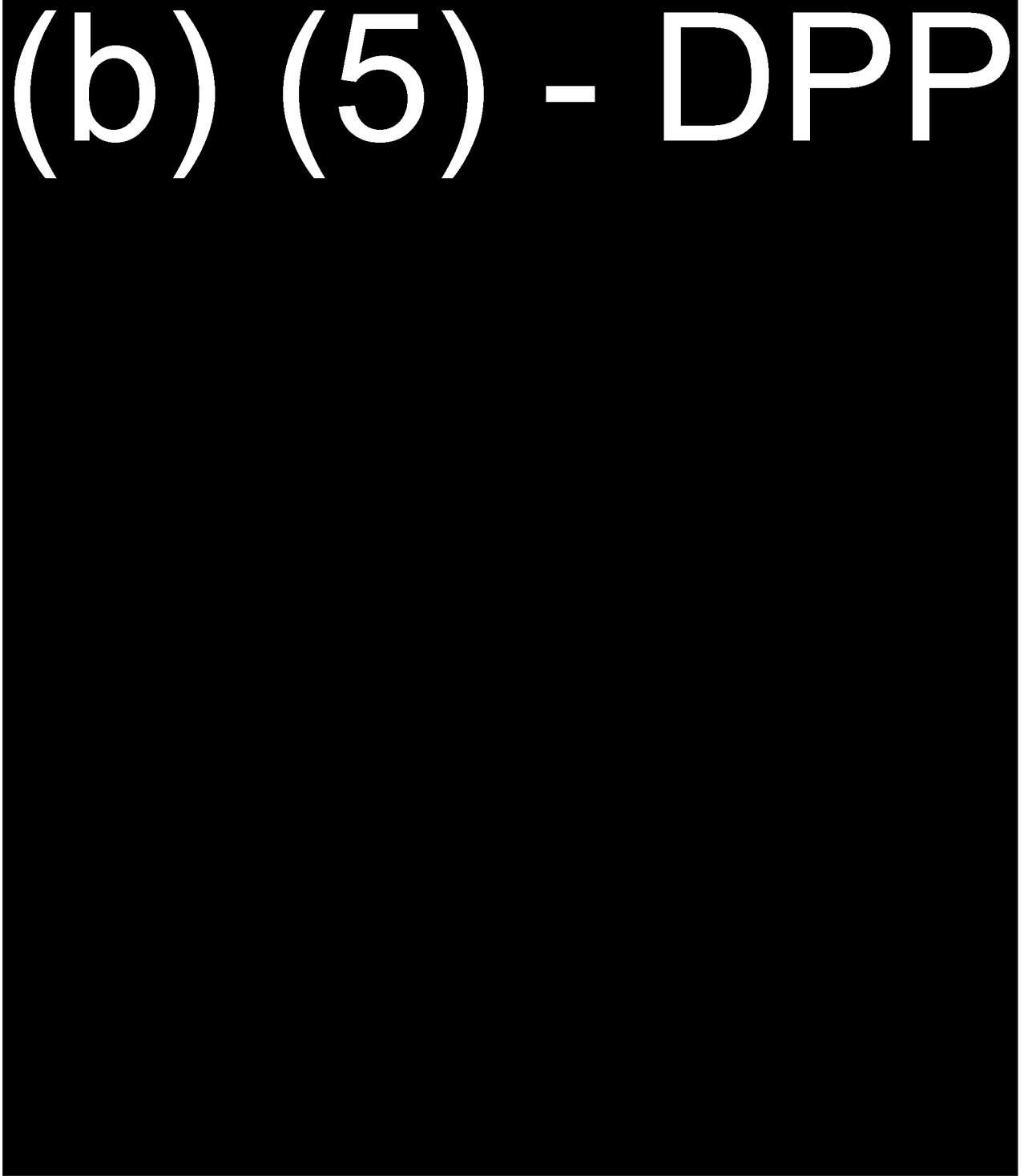
c: 703-344-4348

mtischler@usgs.gov

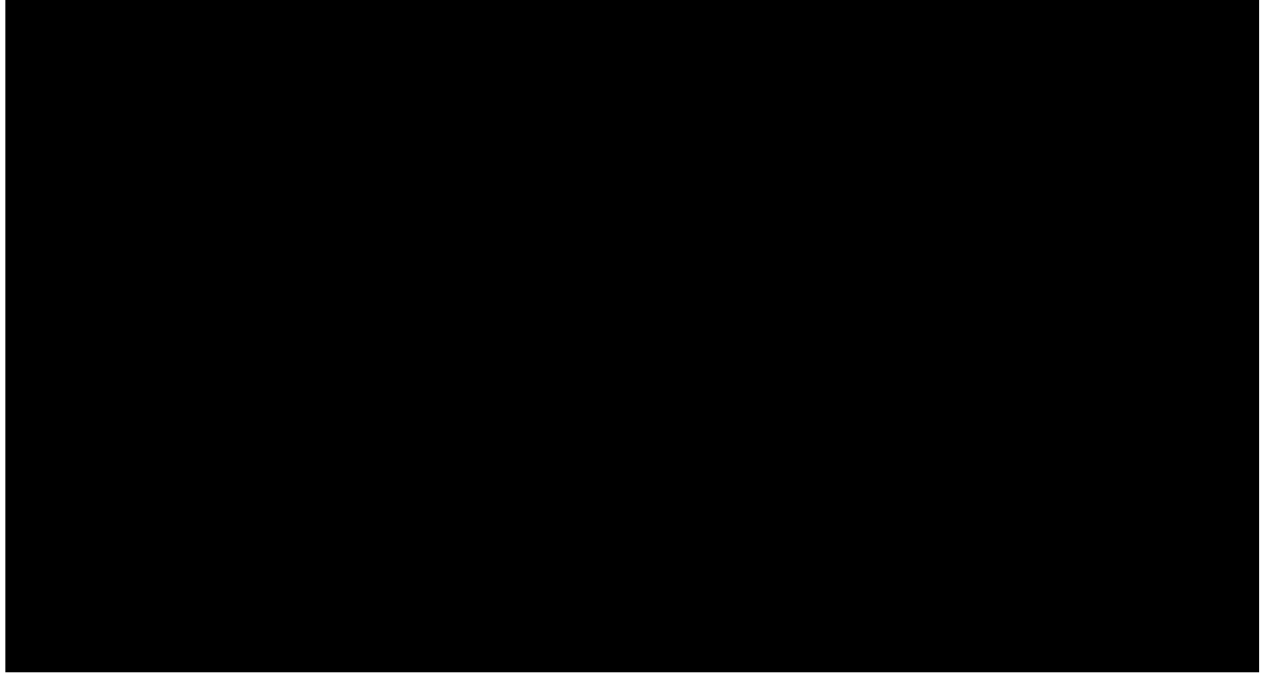
ORDER NO. XXXX

Subject: Implementation of Executive Order “Restoring Names That Honor American Greatness”

(b) (5) - DPP



(b) (5) - DPP



From: (b) (6)
To: [Tischler, Michael A](#); (b) (6)
Cc: [Zahniser, Shellie R](#)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: draft SO
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 6:32:28 AM

Hi Mike,

Thanks for including my edit. This looks good to me. No need for an FNC direction to be included.

Thanks,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

U.S. Department of State

Office: (b) (6) | TW: (b) (6)

From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2025 8:53 AM
To: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@state.gov>; (b) (6) <(b) (6)@state.gov>
Cc: Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: draft SO

Hi (b) (6)

Draft SO attached for review - please do not share too broadly. (b) (5) - DPP (b) (5) - DPP. Please let me know if you have any additional comments and edits. Feel free to give me a call (703-344-4348) to discuss, too.

Thanks,
m

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@state.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2025 7:50 AM
To: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; (b) (6) <(b) (6)@state.gov>
Cc: Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: draft SO

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Sorry for the multiple emails. I forgot to include in my last note (b) (5) - DPP

(b) (5) - DPP

Happy to do a call if you prefer (b) (6).

(b) (6)

U.S. Department of State

Office: (b) (6) | TW: (b) (6)

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Monday, January 27, 2025 7:39 AM

To: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; (b) (6) <(b) (6) @state.gov>

Cc: Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>

Subject: RE: draft SO

Hi Mike,

My only comment is (b) (5) - DPP

(b) (5) - DPP

(b) (5) - DPP

(b) (6)

U.S. Department of State

Office: (b) (6) | TW: (b) (6)

From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>

Sent: Friday, January 24, 2025 5:53 PM

To: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@state.gov>; (b) (6) <(b) (6)@state.gov>

Cc: Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>

Subject: draft SO

(b) (6), (b) (6)

I've just been tasked, along with our solicitor, with putting together a draft Secretary's Order. The attached is a skeleton/strawman that we will be working on. Please let us know if there is any specific language you need to see for implementation of either/both name changes from your perspective. This is moving fast and we are expected to provide a draft on Monday.

Thanks,

mike

Mike Tischler, Ph.D

Director, National Geospatial Program

U.S. Geological Survey

Department of Interior

o: 703-648-4725

c: 703-344-4348

.mtischler@[usgs.gov](mailto:mtischler@usgs.gov)

From: Tischler, Michael A
To: (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) NGA-SFGG USA CIV; Zahniser, Shellie R; (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) NGA-SFGGW USA CIV
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: COPY of 00204
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 5:38:29 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image001.png](#)

Outstanding!

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) NGA-SFGG USA CIV <(b) (3) (B), (b) (6)>
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 8:34:28 PM
To: Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>; Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) NGA-SFGGW USA CIV <(b) (3) (B), (b) (6)>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: COPY of 00204

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Heads up - we're signed.

From: (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) NGA-SFG USA CIV" <(b) (3) (B), (b) (6)>
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at 7:11:52 AM
To: "(b) (3) (B), (b) (6) NGA-SFGG USA CIV" <(b) (3) (B), (b) (6)>
Cc: "(b) (3) (B), (b) (6) NGA-SFGG USA CIV" <(b) (3) (B), (b) (6)>, "Weber Lloyd E NGA-SFGG USA CIV" <(b) (3) (B), (b) (6)>
Subject: FW: COPY of 00204

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
=====

Hi (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) —

Do you want to send to the executive secretariat?

Let me know if you need me to help with anything

(b) (3) (B), (b) (6)

From: (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) NGA-DXCET USA CIV (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 7:16 AM
To: (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) NGA-SFG USA CIV (b) (6) |>
Cc: NGA S Taskers <NGA_S_Taskers@nga.mil>; NGA Editors <NGAEditors@nga.mil>
Subject: RE: COPY of 00204

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

=====

Think I found their correspondence point-of-entry. exsec_exsec@ios.doi.gov

From here:

<https://www.doi.gov/execsec/correspondence>

(b) (3) (B), (b) (6)

From: (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) NGA-DXCET USA CIV (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) |>
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 7:08 AM
To: (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) NGA-SFG USA CIV (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) >
Cc: NGA S Taskers <NGA_S_Taskers@nga.mil>; NGA Editors <NGAEditors@nga.mil>
Subject: COPY of 00204

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

=====

Good morning,

Here's a copy of the memo to Interior from COE tasker 00204.

Trying to identify a point-of-entry email for their exec sec right now. If you have a way of delivering this, please let us know.

V.I

(b) (3) (B), (b) (6)

(b) (3) (B), (b) (6)

NGAEditors@nga.mil

(b) (3) (B), (b) (6) (TS)

(b) (3) (B), (b) (6) (U)

**CONTACT THE EDITING TEAM, NOT INDIVIDUAL EDITORS,
FOR ALL BUSINESS PURPOSES**



Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

=====
Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

From: [Tischler, Michael A](#)
To: [Tim St. Onge](#)
Cc: [Zahniser, Shellie R](#)
Subject: Draft SO
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 6:46:34 AM
Attachments: [Draft S.O. jan27.docx](#)

Hi Tim,

Shellie and I were requested to draft a Secretary's order supporting implementation of the recent executive order. We have worked with our solicitor over the weekend and developed the attached draft. (b) (6) has also reviewed from an FNC perspective, but I'd like to make sure you are comfortable with this as well. Please let us know if you have any eduts/comments.

Thanks,
M

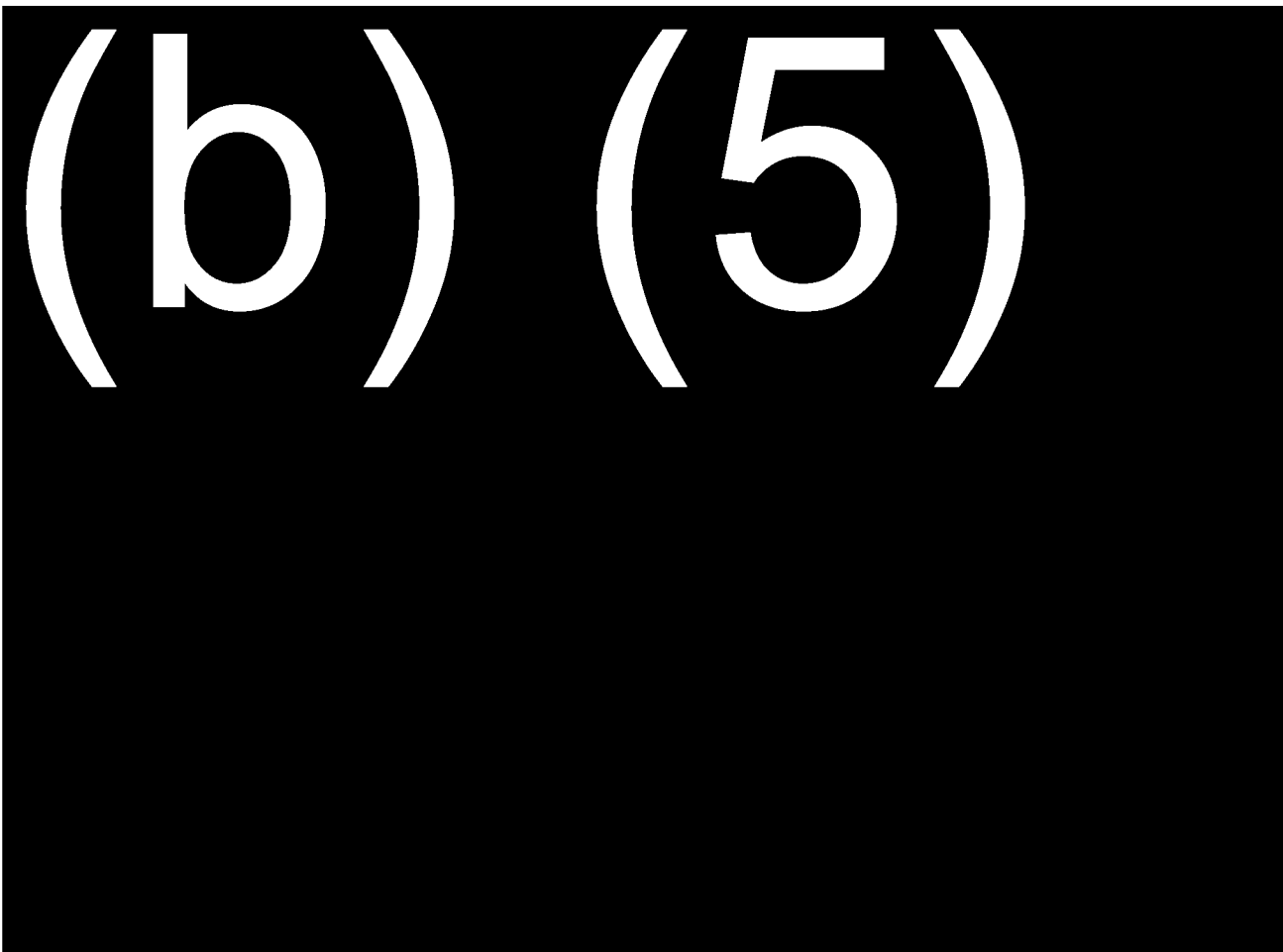
Mike Tischler, Ph.D
Director, National Geospatial Program
U.S. Geological Survey
Department of Interior
o: 703-648-4725
c: 703-344-4348
mtischler@usgs.gov

ORDER NO. XXXX

Subject: Implementation of Executive Order “Restoring Names That Honor American Greatness”

(b) (5)

(b) (5)



From: [St Onge, Timothy](#)
To: [Tischler, Michael A](#)
Cc: [Zahniser, Shellie R](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Draft SO
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 7:29:07 AM

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Hi Mike,

Thank you for passing this along and for your weekend work on this. No edits or comments from my readings of this.

Thank you,
Tim

Tim St. Onge
Cartographer
Geography & Map Division
LM-B02
202-707-9044
tong@loc.gov



From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2025 9:47 AM
To: St Onge, Timothy <tong@loc.gov>
Cc: Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>
Subject: Draft SO

CAUTION: This email message has been received from an external source. Please use caution when opening attachments, or clicking on links.

Hi Tim,

Shellie and I were requested to draft a Secretary's order supporting implementation of

the recent executive order. We have worked with our solicitor over the weekend and developed the attached draft. (b) (6) has also reviewed from an FNC perspective, but I'd like to make sure you are comfortable with this as well. Please let us know if you have any eduts/comments.

Thanks,
M

Mike Tischler, Ph.D
Director, National Geospatial Program
U.S. Geological Survey
Department of Interior
o: 703-648-4725
c: 703-344-4348
mtischler@usgs.gov

From: Tischler, Michael A
To: Shelton, Michael
Cc: Zahniser, Shellie R
Subject: Draft SO
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 6:48:32 AM
Attachments: Draft S.O jan27.docx

Hi Mike,

Shellie and I were requested to draft a Secretary's order supporting implementation of the recent executive order. We have worked with our solicitor over the weekend and developed the attached draft. (b) (6) has also reviewed from an FNC perspective, but I'd like to make sure you are comfortable with this as well. Please let us know if you have any edits/comments.

Here's the link to the CRS report I mentioned -
<https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF12881>

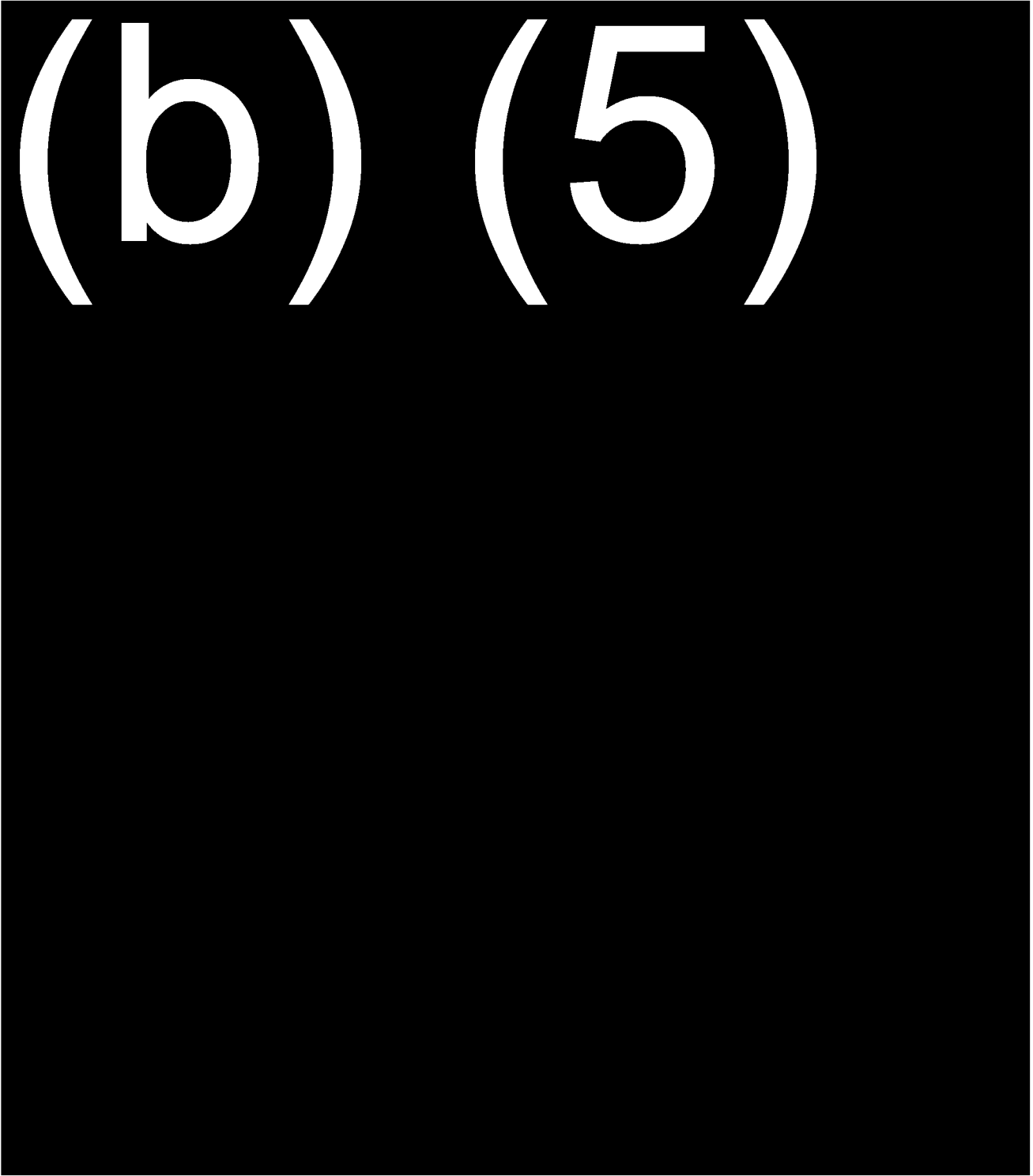
Thanks,
m

Mike Tischler, Ph.D
Director, National Geospatial Program
U.S. Geological Survey
Department of Interior
o: 703-648-4725
c: 703-344-4348
mtischler@usgs.gov

ORDER NO. XXXX

Subject: Implementation of Executive Order “Restoring Names That Honor American Greatness”

(b) (5)



(b) (5)

From: Shelton, Michael
To: Tischler, Michael A
Cc: Zahniser, Shellie R
Subject: Re: Draft SO
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 7:32:22 AM
Attachments: Draft S.O. (Jan. 27 MMS Edits).docx

Mike (and Shellie);

I've looked over the draft Secretarial order, and suggested a few edits/emendations, which should appear in Track Changes. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Many thanks,

/s/ Mike

Michael M. Shelton
Senior Program Analyst
Office of Policy
National Park Service
Deputy Member, U.S. Board on
Geographic Names
1849 C Street NW / Mailstop 2659
Washington, DC 20240-0001
(202) 354-3954 (Direct Dial)
(202) 354-3950 (Gen'l Off. No.)
(202) 371-5189 (Fax)

Teleworking Monday and Tuesday / In the Office Wednesday through Friday

From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2025 9:48 AM
To: Shelton, Michael <Michael_Shelton@nps.gov>
Cc: Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>
Subject: Draft SO

Hi Mike,

Shellie and I were requested to draft a Secretary's order supporting implementation of the recent executive order. We have worked with our solicitor over the weekend and developed the attached draft. (b) (6) has also reviewed from an FNC perspective, but I'd like to make sure you are comfortable with this as well. Please let us know if you have any edits/comments.

Here's the link to the CRS report I mentioned -

<https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF12881>

Thanks,

m

Mike Tischler, Ph.D

Director, National Geospatial Program

U.S. Geological Survey

Department of Interior

o: 703-648-4725

c: 703-344-4348

mtischler@usgs.gov

ORDER NO. XXXX

Subject: Implementation of Executive Order “Restoring Names That Honor American Greatness”

(b) (5)

Commented [SM1]: (b) (5)

Commented [SM2]: (b) (5)

Commented [SM3]: (b) (5)

Formatted: Font: Bold

(b) (5)

Commented [SM4]: (b) (5)

From: Tischler, Michael A
To: Shelton, Michael
Cc: Zahniser, Shellie R
Subject: Re: Draft SO
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 8:04:57 AM

Thank you, Mike!

From: Shelton, Michael <Michael_Shelton@nps.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2025 10:31 AM
To: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Cc: Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>
Subject: Re: Draft SO

Mike (and Shellie);

I've looked over the draft Secretarial order, and suggested a few edits/emendations, which should appear in Track Changes. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Many thanks,

/s/ Mike

Michael M. Shelton
Senior Program Analyst
Office of Policy
National Park Service
Deputy Member, U.S. Board on
Geographic Names
1849 C Street NW / Mailstop 2659
Washington, DC 20240-0001
(202) 354-3954 (Direct Dial)
(202) 354-3950 (Gen'l Off. No.)
(202) 371-5189 (Fax)

Teleworking Monday and Tuesday / In the Office Wednesday through Friday

From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2025 9:48 AM
To: Shelton, Michael <Michael_Shelton@nps.gov>
Cc: Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>
Subject: Draft SO

Hi Mike,

Shellie and I were requested to draft a Secretary's order supporting implementation of the recent executive order. We have worked with our solicitor over the weekend and developed the attached draft. (b) (6) has also reviewed from an FNC perspective, but I'd like to make sure you are comfortable with this as well. Please let us know if you have any edits/comments.

Here's the link to the CRS report I mentioned -

<https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF12881>

Thanks,

m

Mike Tischler, Ph.D
Director, National Geospatial Program
U.S. Geological Survey
Department of Interior
o: 703-648-4725
c: 703-344-4348
mtischler@usgs.gov

From: [Jones, Leslie W](#)
To: [Myrick, Brett H](#); [Ryker, Sarah J](#); [Cameron, Scott J](#)
Cc: [Farmer, Isis U](#); [Lukas, William A](#); [Lacey, Jennifer A](#); [Killpack, Darcee](#); [Tischler, Michael A](#); [Irish, Tony C](#); [Patnaik, Bivan R](#)
Subject: Re: EO/SO on renaming, FW: BGN follow-up
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 6:46:46 AM

Package is in DTS (#WGS0002949). We will update it with this version and move it forward to Water and Science momentarily.

Leslie

Leslie W. Jones

Chief of Staff

U.S. Geological Survey

12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, MS101
Reston, VA 20192
703-969-4158 (cell) ljones@usgs.gov

From: Myrick, Brett H <brett.myrick@sol.doi.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 9:39 AM
To: Ryker, Sarah J <sryker@usgs.gov>; Cameron, Scott J <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Farmer, Isis U <isis_farmer@ios.doi.gov>; Lukas, William A <wlukas@usgs.gov>; Jones, Leslie W <ljones@usgs.gov>; Lacey, Jennifer A <jlacey@usgs.gov>; Killpack, Darcee <dkillpack@usgs.gov>; Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; Irish, Tony C <Tony.Irish@sol.doi.gov>; Patnaik, Bivan R <bivan_patnaik@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: EO/SO on renaming, FW: BGN follow-up

All-

(b) (5) ACP



Redline and clean copies are attached.

Thank you,
Brett

Brett H. Myrick
Attorney-Adviser
Department of the Interior
Division of General Law - General Legal Services
brett.myrick@sol.doi.gov
202-208-3820 (work)
312-576-4798 (personal cell)

From: Ryker, Sarah J <sryker@usgs.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2025 8:20 PM
To: Myrick, Brett H <brett.myrick@sol.doi.gov>; Cameron, Scott J <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Farmer, Isis U <isis_farmer@ios.doi.gov>; Lukas, William A <wlukas@usgs.gov>; Jones, Leslie W <ljones@usgs.gov>; Lacey, Jennifer A <jlacey@usgs.gov>; Killpack, Darcee <dkillpack@usgs.gov>; Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; Irish, Tony C <Tony.Irish@sol.doi.gov>; Patnaik, Bivan R <bivan_patnaik@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: RE: EO/SO on renaming, FW: BGN follow-up

(b) (5) ACP

If the Department wanted to conduct some outreach to affected states before starting that sequence of actions, USGS could help support DOI on that.

Sarah J Ryker, PhD
Acting Director, U.S. Geological Survey
sryker@usgs.gov

From: Myrick, Brett H <brett.myrick@sol.doi.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2025 6:43 PM
To: Cameron, Scott J <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>; Ryker, Sarah J <sryker@usgs.gov>
Cc: Farmer, Isis U <isis_farmer@ios.doi.gov>; Lukas, William A <wlukas@usgs.gov>; Jones, Leslie W <ljones@usgs.gov>; Lacey, Jennifer A <jlacey@usgs.gov>; Killpack, Darcee <dkillpack@usgs.gov>; Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; Irish, Tony C <Tony.Irish@sol.doi.gov>; Patnaik, Bivan R <bivan_patnaik@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: EO/SO on renaming, FW: BGN follow-up

Scott-

(b) (5) ACP

Thanks,
Brett

Brett H. Myrick
Attorney-Adviser
Department of the Interior
Division of General Law - General Legal Services
brett.myrick@sol.doi.gov
202-208-3820 (work)
312-576-4798 (personal cell)

From: Cameron, Scott J <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2025 6:05 PM
To: Myrick, Brett H <brett.myrick@sol.doi.gov>; Ryker, Sarah J <sryker@usgs.gov>
Cc: Farmer, Isis U <isis_farmer@ios.doi.gov>; Lukas, William A <wluke@usgs.gov>; Jones, Leslie W <ljones@usgs.gov>; Lacey, Jennifer A <jlacey@usgs.gov>; Killpack, Darcee <dkillpack@usgs.gov>; Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; Irish, Tony C <Tony.Irish@sol.doi.gov>; Patnaik, Bivan R <bivan_patnaik@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: RE: EO/SO on renaming, FW: BGN follow-up

Brett,

(b) (5) ACP

Thanks,
Scott

Scott J. Cameron
Senior Advisor to the Secretary, exercising the delegated authority of the Assistant
Secretary – Water and Science and exercising the delegated authority of the Assistant
Secretary – Insular and International Affairs

202.330.1398

From: Myrick, Brett H <brett.myrick@sol.doi.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2025 6:02 PM
To: Cameron, Scott J <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>; Ryker, Sarah J <sryker@usgs.gov>
Cc: Farmer, Isis U <isis_farmer@ios.doi.gov>; Lukas, William A <wluke@usgs.gov>; Jones, Leslie W <ljones@usgs.gov>; Lacey, Jennifer A <jlacey@usgs.gov>; Killpack, Darcee <dkillpack@usgs.gov>; Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; Irish, Tony C <Tony.Irish@sol.doi.gov>; Patnaik, Bivan R

<bivan_patnaik@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: Re: EO/SO on renaming, FW: BGN follow-up

Scott-

(b) (5) ACP

Thank you,
Brett

Brett H. Myrick
Attorney-Adviser
Department of the Interior
Division of General Law - General Legal Services
brett.myrick@sol.doi.gov
202-208-3820 (work)
312-576-4798 (personal cell)

From: Cameron, Scott J <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>

Sent: Monday, January 27, 2025 5:46 PM

To: Ryker, Sarah J <sryker@usgs.gov>

Cc: Farmer, Isis U <isis_farmer@ios.doi.gov>; Lukas, William A <wlukas@usgs.gov>; Jones, Leslie W <ljones@usgs.gov>; Lacey, Jennifer A <jlacey@usgs.gov>; Killpack, Darcee <dkillpack@usgs.gov>; Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; Irish, Tony C <Tony.Irish@sol.doi.gov>; Myrick, Brett H <brett.myrick@sol.doi.gov>; Patnaik, Bivan R <bivan_patnaik@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: RE: EO/SO on renaming, FW: BGN follow-up

All,

(b) (5) ACP

Thanks,
Scott

Scott J. Cameron

Senior Advisor to the Secretary, exercising the delegated authority of the Assistant Secretary – Water and Science and exercising the delegated authority of the Assistant Secretary – Insular and International Affairs

202.330.1398

From: Ryker, Sarah J <sryker@usgs.gov>

Sent: Monday, January 27, 2025 4:12 PM

To: Cameron, Scott J <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Farmer, Isis U <isis_farmer@ios.doi.gov>; Lukas, William A <wlukas@usgs.gov>; Jones, Leslie W <ljones@usgs.gov>; Lacey, Jennifer A <jlacey@usgs.gov>; Killpack, Darcee <dkillpack@usgs.gov>; Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; Irish, Tony C <Tony.Irish@sol.doi.gov>; Myrick, Brett H <brett.myrick@sol.doi.gov>; Patnaik, Bivan R <bivan_patnaik@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: EO/SO on renaming, FW: BGN follow-up

Scott,

Attached is a draft Secretary's Order to implement the Executive Order "Restoring Names That Honor American Greatness". This draft was developed collaboratively by the USGS and the Solicitor's office, with input from key BGN officials including the BGN State Dept. representative. A few notes:

1. Sec. 2 of the EO calls for agency review of all agency BGN appointees. The USGS has sent forward through DTS a memo to the Secretary's office in support of the DOI membership review. Therefore, this draft does not include any additional guidance for implementation of that request. However, additional instruction can be added if the department feels it appropriate.
2. Sec. 4c of the draft corresponds to EO sec. 2d, but this is a situation that we don't anticipate will arise.
3. Sec. 4d of the draft corresponds to EO sec. 5. This section of the draft is less detailed because it is not a BGN or USGS function and will need some additional DOI decision-making over who should implement and in what timeframe. (E.g. I'll posit that it might be a responsibility for DOI's Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs, and note that the need to prepare announcements in time for July 4, 2026, will be time-constraining on that process.)

This draft aims to help DOI address all relevant sections of the EO, but we can edit/adjust based on your feedback.

I'm CCing our leads at USGS and SOL, as well as Bivan – thank you, all!

Sarah J Ryker, PhD
Acting Director, U.S. Geological Survey
sryker@usgs.gov

From: Cameron, Scott J <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2025 5:24 PM
To: Ryker, Sarah J <sryker@usgs.gov>; Caminiti, Mariagrazia <Marigrace.Caminiti@sol.doi.gov>
Cc: Farmer, Isis U <isis_farmer@ios.doi.gov>; Jones, Leslie W <ljones@usgs.gov>; Lukas, William A <wylukas@usgs.gov>; Lacey, Jennifer A <jlacey@usgs.gov>; Irish, Tony C <Tony.Irish@sol.doi.gov>; Patnaik, Bivan R <bivan_patnaik@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: BGN follow-up

Hi Sarah,
Please have USGS draft a secretarial order telling USGS to execute the EO. Talk with Tony Irish in Sol so we get it in the right format to hand off to Bivan in Exec Sec.
It would be much appreciated if you could get a draft to Tony on Monday.
Get [Outlook for IQS](#)

From: Ryker, Sarah J <sryker@usgs.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2025 5:02:29 PM
To: Cameron, Scott J <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Farmer, Isis U <isis_farmer@ios.doi.gov>; Jones, Leslie W <ljones@usgs.gov>; Lukas, William A <wylukas@usgs.gov>; Lacey, Jennifer A <jlacey@usgs.gov>
Subject: BGN follow-up

Scott,

I just asked the USGS folks who support the Board on Geographic Names to confirm that we don't need a fully populated and sitting BGN to implement name changes initiated by EO/SO. I just got this confirmation back:

The BGN plays essentially no part when the name change is the result of an EO or SO. The BGN does not need to approve the name, because it has already been approved by someone with the authority.

As a side note, our folks are anxious to get the BGN populated as the Board fields a lot of changes requested by the public. But that process can continue in parallel with the EO-directed changes.

In case you could use more detail on this, I'm CCing Jenn Lacey, our Associate Director for Core Science Systems – she oversees the BGN processes.

Sarah J Ryker, PhD
Acting Director, U.S. Geological Survey
sryker@usgs.gov

Form: **016161** NGA-SS000-161-010
To: **016161** NGA-SS000-161-010
From: **016161** NGA-SS000-161-010
Cc: **016161** NGA-SS000-161-010
Subject: **016161** NGA-SS000-161-010
Attachments: **016161** NGA-SS000-161-010

This email has been scanned by Trend Micro ScanMail for Microsoft Exchange.

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U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
Two Hundred Ninety-Fifth Quarterly Meeting
Virtual Meeting
Tuesday, January 28, 2025, 1:00 p.m. ET

Agenda

1. Opening
2. Minutes of Meeting 294
3. Communications
 - 3.1 Chair's Report (Tischler)
 - 3.2 Executive Secretariat Report (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) and Zahniser)
4. Reports
 - 4.1 Executive Committee (b) (3) (B), (b) (6)
 - 4.1.1 Special Committee on Communication (Vacant)
 - 4.2 Foreign Names Committee ((b) (6))
 - 4.3 Domestic Names Committee (St. Onge)
 - 4.4 Advisory Committees
 - 4.4.1 Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names (Borg)
 - 4.4.2 Advisory Committee on Undersea Features (Westington)
5. Other Business
6. Closing
7. Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 15, 2025, 1:00 p.m. ET.

U.S. Board on Geographic Names
Two Hundred Ninety Fourth Quarterly Meeting
(Virtual Meeting)
Tuesday, October 15, 2024, 1:00 p.m. EDT

Members and Deputy Members

Michael Tischler, Department of the Interior/U.S. Geological Survey (Chair) (voting)
Kenia Allen, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Meghan Barrett, Department of Homeland Security (voting)
Scott Borg, National Science Foundation (voting)
(b) (3) (B), (b) (6), Department of Defense/National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency
Thad Ellerbe, Department of Commerce (voting)
Brenda-Anne C. Forrest, Government Publishing Office (voting)
(b) (3) (B), (b) (6), Department of Defense
(b) (3) (B), (b) (6), Department of Defense/National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency
Paulette Hasier, Library of Congress (voting)
Elizabeth Kanalley, Department of Agriculture/U.S. Forest Service (voting)
Timothy St. Onge, Library of Congress (Chair, Domestic Names Committee)
(b) (3) (B), (b) (6), Department of Defense/National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (Vice Chair)
(voting)
Rikki Wortham, Bureau of the Census

Ex Officio

(b) (3) (B), (b) (6), Department of Defense/ National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (Executive Secretary for Foreign Names)
Shellie Zahniser, Department of the Interior/U.S. Geological Survey (Executive Secretary for Domestic Names)

Staff

Shelby Bourquein, Department of the Interior/U.S. Geological Survey
(b) (3) (B), (b) (6), Department of Defense/ National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency
(b) (3) (B), (b) (6), Department of Defense/National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency
Matthew O'Donnell, Department of the Interior/U.S. Geological Survey
(b) (3) (B), (b) (6), Department of Defense/National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency
Jennifer Runyon, U.S. Geological Survey
(b) (3) (B), (b) (6), Department of Defense/National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency
(b) (3) (B), (b) (6), Department of Defense/National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency

1. Opening

Chair Tischler opened Quarterly Meeting 294 of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN) at 1:00 p.m. EDT.

2. Minutes of the 293rd Meeting

The minutes of BGN 293, held July 16, 2024, were approved as submitted.

3. Communications

3.1 Chairman's Report (Tischler)

There was no written report.

Tischler noted the upcoming BGN/PCGN up next month and thanked all involved parties for their efforts in preparing for the conference.

Tischler also noted he is co-chairing a working group for national naming policies and procedures. An interim report is planned to be presented at UNGEGN in April.

3.2 Executive Secretariat Reports (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) /Zahniser)

Zahniser noted work is ongoing to complete annual reports with a submission deadline of November 22. Zahniser also noted the upcoming UNGEGN US/CAN division forum on naming authority approaches to geographic names shifted to December 12.

(b) (3) (B), (b) (6) noted FNC Staff are preparing for upcoming conference next month, as well as FNC 420 scheduled for December 2024. One planned information paper that may be of interest to the group discussed the topic of naming policy considerations for human/machine customers.

4. Reports

4.1 Executive Committee (Tischler)

There was no written report.

Tischler noted the current chair vacancy for Special Committee on Communications.

4.1.1 Special Committee on Communications (Vacant)

Tischler noted the current vacancy for the Special Committee on Communications Chair. Forrest noted the possibility of creating documentation outlining duties and expectations for the role. Tischler concurred it would be a valuable resource for future SCC Chairs to have.

4.2 Foreign Names Committee (b) (3) (B), (b) (6)

(b) (3) (B), (b) (6) referred to the distributed FNC report.

4.3 Domestic Names Committee (St. Onge)

St. Onge referred to the distributed written DNC report. The DNC conducted three meetings since the last BGN meeting, including at CoGNA in Columbia, Missouri in September 2024.

St. Onge also noted work is ongoing to rebuild BGN annual reports.

4.4 Advisory Committees

4.4.1 Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names (Borg)

Borg noted ongoing discussions with foreign partners on the topic of more standardized feature classifications for Antarctic features. Presently, there has been not much progress in standardization. Borg also noted work is ongoing to populate a gazetteer for U.S. approved spellings of place names of Antarctic features.

ACAN presented one new potential member for consideration. Her membership was unanimously approved.

ACAN also presented 5 features for BGN approval, 4 of which were UK-APC approved names. All 5 names were unanimously approved.

4.4.2 Advisory Committee on Undersea Features (b) (3) (B), (b) (6)

No ACUF members were present. Tischler noted that the names currently pending BGN approval would need to be presented at BGN 295 in January 2025.

5. Other Business

Haiser noted the upcoming Library of Congress GIS Day, planned for 5-8 pm on November 21. The planned theme for the event is oceans.

6. Closing

The meeting was adjourned at 1:44 p.m. EDT.

7. Next Meeting

Full Board Meeting 295 is scheduled to take place on January 21, 2025 at 1:30 ET

Executive Secretary – Domestic Names
U.S. Board on Geographic Names Meeting
January 28, 2025

Executive Order 14170 Restoring Names that Honor American Greatness was released on 20 Jan. Department of Interior put out a press release on the DOI website on 24 Jan stating, “The U.S. Board on Geographic Names, under the purview of the Department of the Interior, is working expeditiously to update the official federal nomenclature in the Geographic Names Information System to reflect these changes, effective immediately for federal use.”

Two abstracts were submitted to the 2025 Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN). The first was authored by Shellie Zahniser and (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) and includes the FY24 Annual Report. The second was authored by Mike Tischler and Shellie Zahniser and includes our US Country Policy for names. The final reports are due on 10 March.

UNGEGN US/CAN Division has cancelled the 12 February virtual forum due to a scheduling conflict with a speaker. The meeting will be rescheduled for a later date yet to be determined.

BGN approved the name of Runyon Ridge in Antarctica with a vote of 6 approve and 1 abstain. The new feature has been added to the GNIS Antarctica Features with FID 2832461. ACAN and Ms. Runyon were notified of the decision.



Respectfully submitted,
Shellie Zahniser,
Secretary, DNC, BGN

Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names
U.S. Board on Geographic Names Meeting
January 28, 2025

The Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names (ACAN) has not met since the last BGN meeting.

However, ACAN distributed a proposal to name a feature in Antarctica for Jennifer Runyon from the Geographic Names Office at the U.S. Geological Survey upon the occasion of her retirement. The name, Runyon Ridge, was approved by ACAN and forwarded to BGN with a requested special online vote considering the time factor involved. BGN approved the name on January 13, 2025, and an entry was entered into the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS), the nation's official geographic name repository.

There is ongoing work by the Polar Geospatial Center (PGC) at the University of Minnesota regarding the remaining 200 or so entries in GNIS where manual examination is required in the geographic coordinates enhancement program.

Roger L. Payne

Respectfully submitted,
Roger L. Payne,
Secretary, ACAN, BGN



**United States Board on Geographic Names 295th
Quarterly Meeting
Report of the Advisory Committee on Undersea Features**

January 28, 2025

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON UNDERSEA FEATURES REPORT

1) MEETINGS

The Advisory Committee on Undersea Features (ACUF) met twice virtually on October 2, 2024 (Meeting 369) and January 7, 2025 (Meeting 370). The Committee's next meeting (Meeting 371) is scheduled for March 4, 2025.

2) UNDERSEA FEATURE NAMES RECOMMENDED FOR BGN APPROVAL

2.1 PROPOSALS FROM THE 369TH MEETING OF ACUF

ACUF 369;

The committee did not consider any new feature proposals as none were received.

ACUF 370;

The committee did not consider any new feature proposals as none were received.

2.2 FAST-TRACK PROPOSALS FROM SCUFN (SUB-COMMITTEE ON UNDERSEA FEATURE NAMES)

ACUF 369;

The committee recommends 106 names reviewed at SCUFN's 37th meeting (SCUFN-37) for BGN approval.

ACUF 370;

The committee considered 15 names reviewed at SCUFN-37, recommending a revised total of 105 names approved at SCUFN-37 for BGN approval (see Annex I).

2.3 DUPLICATE FEATURE REVIEW FOR ACUF

ACUF 370;

The committee recommends 19 undersea features in the Geographic Names Database be refiled to their respective country file or to the historical features file; this is because the 19 features are located within the 12 nautical mile territorial sea of various countries (only undersea features outside the 12 nautical mile territorial sea are included in the undersea features file) (see Annex II).

3) SCUFN ACTIVITIES

The 38th SCUFN meeting is tentatively scheduled in Bali, Indonesia, on still-to-be-determined dates in November 2025. The ACUF secretary may be in attendance. ACUF will submit a summary report of its activities since SCUFN-37.

The ACUF Secretary historically provides support to SCUFN and encourages integration between the two naming authorities. The ACUF Secretary incorporates the outcomes of SCUFN decisions into feature name reviews for ACUF via a fast-track process.

4) OTHER

Jenny RUNYON has retired from U.S. federal government service January 10, 2025, after 42.5 years of service. Her productive and extensive government service to the U.S. Geological Service (USGS) and 30 years as U.S. BGN staff is a great credit to herself and the U.S. Government.

Name	Feature Type	LAT	LONG	Proposer	History
Brazil					
Calliari	Canyons	-29.91116	-35.43862	Directorate of Hydrography and Navigation (DHN), Brazil	Named after Dr. Lauro Júlio Calliari (1951-2023), a remarkable Brazilian oceanographer. He worked all his life as professor at the Rio Grande Federal University (FURG) and guided several studies and research projects in Geological Oceanography and mineral resources along the Brazilian Continental Margin, for almost fifty years. He is considered one of the Fathers of Brazilian geological oceanography and was a very well-respected scholar and teacher.
Carioca	Sea Channel	-23.9	-35.95	Directorate of Hydrography and Navigation (DHN), Brazil	Carioca is the name of people born in the Rio de Janeiro State, Brazil, offshore of which the feature is located.
Maguari	Seamount	0.68832	-44.31278	Directorate of Hydrography and Navigation (DHN), Brazil	Named in reference to Cape Maguari, located 260 km northwest of Cape Gurupi, North of Brazil.
Quintana	Seamount	-32.7495	-38.67696	Directorate of Hydrography and Navigation (DHN), Brazil	Named after Mário de Miranda Quintana (1906-1994), a Brazilian poet, translator and journalist who was born in the State of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. He received many awards, including one from the Brazilian Academy of Letters, in 1980, for his body of work. He is considered one of the most prominent authors of Brazilian literature of the 20th century. The feature is located nearby the Rio Grande Rise, itself named from the State where Mário Quintana was born.
Satander	Guyot	-1.92806	-37.82161	Directorate of Hydrography and Navigation (DHN), Brazil	Named after Prof. George Satander Sá Freire (1951-2022), a Brazilian professor at the Federal University of Ceará (UFC) where he worked with excellence for 40 years. He was one of the pioneers of marine geology in northeastern Brazil and dedicated his life intensely to research and training of human resources. Prof. Satander founded the Laboratory of Marine and Applied Geology (LGMA) in the Department of Geology at UFC. He coordinated the Brazilian Marine Geology and Geophysics Program (PGGM) from 1997-2001 and 2007-2011 and participated in several national and international programs/projects such as JOPPS, Revizee, Geomar, Geocosta, Remplac, Granmar, contributing actively to the expansion of scientific knowledge on the Brazilian Continental Margin.
Chile					
Atacama	Deep	-23.41118	-71.3414	Hydrographic and Oceanographic Office of the Chilean Navy (SHOA)	Named from the Atacama Desert, which is considered one of the driest and most arid deserts in the world, located in the continental part in front of this undersea feature.
Vidal Gormaz	Seamount	-58.98449	-64.57989	Hydrographic and Oceanographic Office of the Chilean Navy (SHOA)	Named after the Chilean Navy Captain Francisco Vidal Gormaz (1837-1907), a pioneer in hydrographic explorations in the country, carrying out several campaigns and studies in the areas of Hydrography, Geography, Meteorology, and Astronomy, among other related sciences. He was the first Director of the Hydrographic Office of Chile. He is considered the father of national hydrography.
China					
Beimian	Seamount	16.31333	130.765	China Geological Survey	Named from the constellation of “Beimian” (Latin name is Corona Borealis).
Bojiang	Seamount	15.25167	131.66333	China Geological Survey	Named from the constellation of “Bojiang” (Latin name is Eridanus).
Feima	Seamount	15.375	131.09667	China Geological Survey	Named from the constellation of “Feima” (Latin name is Pegasus).
Nanchuan	Seamount	15.70833	130.66	China Geological Survey	Named from the constellation of “Nanchuan” (Latin name is Argo Navis).
Tiantu	Seamount	16.61	130.145	China Geological Survey	Named from the constellation of “Tiantu” (Latin name is Piscis Austrinus).
Wuxian	Seamount	15.61833	131.05667	China Geological Survey	Named from the constellation of “Wuxian” (Latin name is Echeveria Hercules).
Yucong	Hill	9.22923	-156.33351	China Minmetals Corporation	Yucong is a jade artifact used in ancient China for ceremonial activities.

Name	Feature Type	LAT	LONG	Proposer	History
Canghuang	Hill	-19.86167	77.44333	China Navy Hydrographic Office	Canghuang means the color of greenish yellow, which is mainly used in Chinese paintings to draw grass and leaves in the late autumn or early winter.
Ehuang	Hill	-20.195	77.87167	China Navy Hydrographic Office	Ehuang means the color of faint yellow, which is usually used in Chinese paintings for the color of silkworm chrysalis.
Xiangye	Seamount	-20.52	77.62	China Navy Hydrographic Office	Xiangye means the color of newly sprouted mulberry leaves, which is used to draw the tender leaves and the greenish yellow hue.
Yaohuang	Hill	-19.77333	77.54833	China Navy Hydrographic Office	Yaohuang means the color of cream yellow, which is mostly used on peonies in Chinese paintings.
Zhehuang	Hill	-19.89333	77.40833	China Navy Hydrographic Office	Zhehuang means the reddish yellow color from the tree of Che (mandarin melonberry), which was mainly used on the imperial dressing in ancient China.
Feibaifeng	Seamount	13.21667	178.50333	National Marine Data and Information Service (NMDIS), China	Feibaifeng is the Chinese name for the species taxa “Pseudarchasteridae” order.
Jiangu	Seamount	14.38833	175.645	National Marine Data and Information Service (NMDIS), China	Jiangu is the Chinese name for the species taxa “Haplosclerida”.
Jigu	Guyot	14.20333	175.79333	National Marine Data and Information Service (NMDIS), China	Jigu is the Chinese name for the species taxa “Acanthascinae”.
Maodai	Hill	-74.11528	-140.42138	National Marine Data and Information Service (NMDIS), China	Maodai means "chinstrap" in Chinese language. Chinstrap penguins are widely distributed in this area.
Pu'er	Seamounts	-0.383333	88.516667	National Marine Data and Information Service (NMDIS), China	Pu'er is a specialty tea of China.
Queshe	Hills	-0.966667	88.266667	National Marine Data and Information Service (NMDIS), China	Queshe is a kind of green tea of China, which is as small as the tongue of a bird.
Songgu	Guyot	14.14167	175.59833	National Marine Data and Information Service (NMDIS), China	Songgu is the Chinese name for the species taxa “Lyssacinosida”.
Yulu	Hill	1.31333	88.51317	National Marine Data and Information Service (NMDIS), China	Yulu is a specialty tea of China.
Zhizi	Hills	132.7359	17.669486	Qingdao Institute of Marine Geology, China Geological Survey	Zhizi means a lovely child in Chinese, evoking a heartwarming and pristine sentiment. It stands as a testament to innocence and benevolence. The feature looks like a running child from the top view.
Guangde	Ridge	3.44167	64.11	The First Institute of Oceanography (SOA), China	Guangde means "grand morality" in Chinese, which refers to the reverence and awe of human for the ocean’s broadness and inclusiveness.
India					
Ashok	Seamount	-26.35703	67.69454	National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research, India	The word "Ashok" is derived from the Sanskrit language, which means "one who has no grief". The word gained prominence through Emperor Ashok, who ruled the Indian subcontinent from approximately 268 to 232 BCE. Emperor Ashok is remembered for his efforts to spread the teachings of Buddhism across his empire and beyond. Emperor Ashok's reign saw early examples of environmental conservation and

Name	Feature Type	LAT	LONG	Proposer	History
					sustainable resource management. He enacted policies to protect forests, wildlife, and natural resources. The name "Ashok" can inspire similar values of conservation and stewardship toward marine habitats and biodiversity.
Chandragupt	Ridge	-26.04932	68.33004	National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research, India	The name "Chandragupt" has its origins in Sanskrit. It is composed of two elements 'Chandra' which means 'Moon' and 'Gupt' which means 'protected' or 'secret'. When combined, "Chandragupt" means "protected by the moon". The moon holds cultural significance in various societies and traditions worldwide. The name "Chandragupt" honors this cultural heritage and fosters a deeper appreciation for the universal symbolism of the moon as a source of inspiration, reflection, and artistic expression. It's a common name in Indian history, particularly notable in the context of Maurya and Gupta empires.
Kalpataru	Ridge	-27.066667	67.2	National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research, India	'Kalpataru' is a Sanskrit word from Indian mythology and essentially translates to "the wish-fulfilling tree of eternity". Just as the mythical tree grants wishes, the ridge might be seen as a source of sustenance and life for marine ecosystems, providing habitat, shelter, and food for various species.
Indonesia					
Ai Temto	Plateau	-1.266667	139.883333	Badan Informasi Geospasial (BIG), Indonesia	"Ai Temto" is a Sobey term (Papuan language). "Ai" means 'drifting logs', referring to the drifting logs sometimes found around this location. "Temto" means 'men' as it is believed that behind these logs there are men who bring the blessing of lots of fish.
Aruwi	Hill	3.67129	141.35702	Badan Informasi Geospasial (BIG), Indonesia	"Aruwi" is an Ormu term (Papuan Language) and means "grave". The feature is considered a grave for the fishes that are living nearby.
Belo	Seamount	-1.89613	140.77972	Badan Informasi Geospasial (BIG), Indonesia	"Belo" is an Ormu term (Papuan language), meaning "weather". Local communities believe the feature is a reference for observing weather conditions before going to sea.
Mereru Skaree	Escarpment	-1.483333	140.45	Badan Informasi Geospasial (BIG), Indonesia	"Mereru Skaree" is a Tepra term (Papuan language), formed of two words: "mereru" meaning "cape" and "skaree" meaning "coral". The feature is in front of Tanahmerah Cape where many fishes come together to breed.
Mordaisekeir	Valley	-1.733333	139.9	Badan Informasi Geospasial (BIG), Indonesia	Mordaisekeir is an Ormu term (Papuan language), formed of two words: "mordai" meaning "northeast" and "sekeir" meaning "seamount/hill". The feature is in the northeast of the closest land area.
Pia Skare	Hill	-1.23754	140.33793	Badan Informasi Geospasial (BIG), Indonesia	"Pia Skare" is a Tepra term (Papuan language), formed of two words: "pia" meaning 'flying/sail fish' and "skare" meaning 'reef'. This hill is named Pia Skare because it is a reef where there are many sailfishes.
Rara Moko	Seamount	-1.18437	140.14346	Badan Informasi Geospasial (BIG), Indonesia	"Rara Moko" is an Ormu term (Papuan language), formed of two words: "rara" meaning 'mountain' and "moko" meaning 'sea'. Locals believe that, in the sea, there are also mountains like the nearby Mount Cycloop on land.
Seiram Dera	Valley	-1.85	139.716667	Badan Informasi Geospasial (BIG), Indonesia	"Seiram Dera" is an Anus term (Papuan language), formed of two words: "seiram" meaning 'dragon's carcass' and "dera" meaning 'canyon'. Locals believed that, at that location, there was a dead dragon which later formed a canyon.
Siratmaya	Seamount	-11.81029	109.2237	Badan Informasi Geospasial (BIG), Indonesia	"Siratmaya" is a Javanese term formed of two words: "sirat" meaning 'light' and "maya" meaning 'appear'. The people of South Yogyakarta often see light rays from under the sea at night, usually seen south of Parangkusumo Beach, Java.

Name	Feature Type	LAT	LONG	Proposer	History
Tangkwa Moko	Ridge	-1.49472	140.34637	Badan Informasi Geospasial (BIG), Indonesia	"Tangkwa Moko" is a Papuan language term formed of two words: "tangkwa" meaning 'shoulder' and "moko" meaning 'mountain'. Indigenous people believe the feature resembles the shoulder of the mountain where their ancestors stood.
Taung	Seamount	-1.87894	140.13696	Badan Informasi Geospasial (BIG), Indonesia	"Taung" is an Ormu term (Papuan language) meaning 'front part of boat'. Local communities believe the feature has a shape like the front part of a boat.
Yaso Skaree	Basin	-2.21639	140.48699	Badan Informasi Geospasial (BIG), Indonesia	"Yaso Skaree" is a Tepra term (Papuan language), formed of two words: "yaso" meaning 'house of fish' and "skaree" meaning 'reef'. Indigenous people believe the feature is a breeding ground for all types of fish.
Anak Batutara	Seamount	-7.64819	123.06282	Hydrography and Oceanography Centre, Indonesia Navy (Pushidrosal)	Named in association with Batutara Island which is located 58 km to the southeast of the feature, in the Flores Sea, Indonesia. "anak" means 'child' in Indonesian language.
Foy Doa	Seamount	-6.68236	124.42565	Hydrography and Oceanography Centre, Indonesia Navy (Pushidrosal)	Named from the Foy Doa, a double flute made from reeds or small bamboo held together by two or more. This is a traditional musical instrument originating from Ngada Regency in Flores Island, as part of East Nusa Tenggara (NTT) Province, Indonesia.
Kalawai	Seamount	-7.12404	125.41056	Hydrography and Oceanography Centre, Indonesia Navy (Pushidrosal)	Named from the Kalawai, a traditional Maluku weapon (similar to a spear) which is used to catch fish and sea cucumbers at night by stabbing.
Kambalu	Seamount	-7.04902	125.01674	Hydrography and Oceanography Centre, Indonesia Navy (Pushidrosal)	Named from the Kambalu, a typical food of the Wakatobi people.
Kanna	Seamount	-6.51887	122.388	Hydrography and Oceanography Centre, Indonesia Navy (Pushidrosal)	Named from the Kanna, an ancient Bugis original shield used in the war against invaders.
Kapal	Bank	6.64723	95.75473	Hydrography and Oceanography Centre, Indonesia Navy (Pushidrosal)	Kapal means 'Battleship' in Indonesian language.
Kopong Dei	Seamount	-7.63296	122.89357	Hydrography and Oceanography Centre, Indonesia Navy (Pushidrosal)	Named in association with Tanjung Kopong Dei (Kopong Dei Cape) which is located 48 km to the south of the feature on Adonara Island, in the Lesser Sunda Islands of Indonesia, located east of the larger island of Flores in the Solor Archipelago.
Lirang	Seamount	-7.731	125.33385	Hydrography and Oceanography Centre, Indonesia Navy (Pushidrosal)	Named in association with Lirang Island, in the Banda Sea, which is located 49 km to the southeast of the feature.
Madu	Seamount	-7.81405	121.76628	Hydrography and Oceanography Centre, Indonesia Navy (Pushidrosal)	Named in association with Madu Island which is located 29 km to the north of the feature, in the Flores Sea.
Malige	Seamount	-7.07953	125.25857	Hydrography and Oceanography Centre, Indonesia Navy (Pushidrosal)	Named from the Malige, a palace /building inherited from the Sultan of Buton XXXVII (Sultan Muhamad Hamidi Kaimudin) and which was built simply by hooking each other without using iron nails. Buton Island is in Southeast Sulawesi Province, Indonesia.
Pidie	Hill	6.62823	96.62865	Hydrography and Oceanography Centre, Indonesia Navy (Pushidrosal)	Named from the coastal geographic feature Pidie Ujung Pidie in Indonesian, on the northern coast of Sumatera, which is located some 150 km southwest of the undersea feature.

Name	Feature Type	LAT	LONG	Proposer	History
Redong	Seamount	-7.58608	125.69012	Hydrography and Oceanography Centre, Indonesia Navy (Pushidrosal)	Named in association with Redong Island, in the Banda Sea, which is located 24 km to the east of the feature.
Romang	Seamount	-7.67714	127.08143	Hydrography and Oceanography Centre, Indonesia Navy (Pushidrosal)	Named in association with the nearby Romang Island, in the Banda Sea, which is located some 27 km to the east of the feature.
Sasapar	Seamount	-7.42256	125.76504	Hydrography and Oceanography Centre, Indonesia Navy (Pushidrosal)	Named from the Sasapar, a traditional dance originating from Ilwaki village, Wetar Island, which is the outermost island of Indonesia, in the Banda Sea, bordering Timor Leste.
Sepatang	Canyons	-9	115.916667	Hydrography and Oceanography Centre, Indonesia Navy (Pushidrosal)	Named from the nearby Sepatang Island (formerly, Sophia Louisa Island), located a few miles to the northeast of the feature and south of Lombok Island, Indonesia.
Seuke	Knoll	6.59335	96.29501	Hydrography and Oceanography Centre, Indonesia Navy (Pushidrosal)	Named from the geographic feature Seuke Point (Ujung Seuke in Indonesian language), on the southern part of Weh Island (Indonesia), located 130 km southwest of the undersea feature.
Tihu	Seamount	-7.20138	125.85828	Hydrography and Oceanography Centre, Indonesia Navy (Pushidrosal)	Named in association with Tihu Lake on the nearby Wetar Island, in the Banda Sea, which is located some 50 km to the south of the feature.
Uli	Seamount	-6.5009	124.18993	Hydrography and Oceanography Centre, Indonesia Navy (Pushidrosal)	Named from the Uli, a type of coral fish that is commonly found in this area around Wetar Island, in the Banda Sea. The Uli is a species of pelagic ray-finned fish belonging to the family Caesionidae. Also known as yellow and blueback fusilier, beautiful fusilier, blue and gold fusilier or yellow-tail fusilier, but local people use the term “Uli”.
Weh	Knoll	6.36625	95.84821	Hydrography and Oceanography Centre, Indonesia Navy (Pushidrosal)	Named from the nearby Weh Island (Pulau Weh in Indonesian), located 66 km southwest of the feature, in the Andaman Sea north of Sumatera.
Weh	Plateau	6.583333	95.866667	Hydrography and Oceanography Centre, Indonesia Navy (Pushidrosal)	Named from the nearby Weh Island (Pulau Weh in Indonesian), located 66 km southwest of the feature, in the Andaman Sea north of Sumatera.
Wetar	Seamount	-7.25332	126.10757	Hydrography and Oceanography Centre, Indonesia Navy (Pushidrosal)	Named in association with the nearby Wetar Island, in the Banda Sea, which is located some 47 km to the south of the feature.
Japan					
Higashikan'en	Seamount	30.053	138.70095	Japanese Committee on Undersea Feature Names (JCUFN)	Named in association with the nearby Kanen Seamount. "Higashi" means 'east' in Japanese.
Hokutōkan'en	Hills	30.22036	138.89278	Japanese Committee on Undersea Feature Names (JCUFN)	Named in association with the nearby Kanen Seamount. "Hokutō" means 'northeast' in Japanese.
Hokutōkan'en	Seamount	30.13575	138.72995	Japanese Committee on Undersea Feature Names (JCUFN)	Named in association with the nearby Kanen Seamount. "Hokutō" means 'northeast' in Japanese.
Horeki	Seamount	30.33041	139.23586	Japanese Committee on Undersea Feature Names (JCUFN)	Named from the Japanese era “Horeki” (1751-1764) during the Edo Period.
Kanpo	Seamount	30.19499	138.58049	Japanese Committee on Undersea Feature Names (JCUFN)	Named from the Japanese era “Kanpo” (1741-1744) during the Edo Period.
Kitameiwa	Hill	30.02636	138.93031	Japanese Committee on Undersea Feature Names (JCUFN)	Named in association with the nearby Meiwa Seamount. "Kita" means 'north' in Japanese.
Minamian'ei	Seamount	28.93647	138.6804	Japanese Committee on Undersea Feature Names (JCUFN)	Named in association with the nearby An'ei Seamount. "Minami" means 'south' in Japanese.
Minamikansei	Seamount	28.79311	138.35557	Japanese Committee on Undersea Feature Names (JCUFN)	Named in association with the nearby Kansei Seamount. "Minami" means 'south' in Japanese.

Name	Feature Type	LAT	LONG	Proposer	History
Naka	Seamount	31.55997	139.05523	Japanese Committee on Undersea Feature Names (JCUFN)	Named after Dr. Jiro NAKA (1956-2021), a marine geologist at the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC) between 1986 and 2006. He worked on ocean floor volcanology of the Izu-Ogasawara (Izu-Bonin area), Okinawa Trough and Hawaii, making contributions to understanding the volcanological characteristics of these areas. He mainly used the submersible Shinkai 2000 as his research tool to conduct ocean floor volcanological study.
Nakameiwa	Seamount	29.87516	138.88529	Japanese Committee on Undersea Feature Names (JCUFN)	Named in association with the nearby Meiwa Seamount. "Naka" means 'in-between' in Japanese.
Palau					
Ngerchelechuus	Seamount	11.2591	134.43309	Territory and Boundary Task Force, Office of the President, Republic of Palau	Named from Ngerchelechuus Mountain which is located on the nearby island of Babeldaob, in the State of Ngardmau, Palau.
Philippines					
Agoho	Hill	16.27333	125.80333	National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA), Philippines	Named from the Agoho tree (Casuarina equisetifolia), a native Philippine tree with oval-shaped fruit. The fruits resemble cones with persistent bracts. The species can be found all over the Philippines, along sandy seashores and inland in broad sandy valleys near streams. It has been observed growing at elevations of up to 800 metres.
Alunsina	Hill	12.25347	127.19844	National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA), Philippines	Named after “Alunsina”, a prominent deity revered as the goddess of the eastern skies in the Panay pantheon. Her divine presence was believed to usher in the sun's radiance and refreshing breezes during the dry season's scorching days. She was also venerated for safeguarding against powerful typhoons and was linked to concepts of elegance, matrimony, and femininity. "Alunsina" was regarded as the patron deity of single women, maidens, romantics, homemakers, and newlyweds.
Alupag	Hill	16.21553	125.75013	National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA), Philippines	Named from the Alupag tree, an evergreen fruit-bearing plant indigenous to the Philippines. This tree is a close relative of litchi and produces delicious fruits. It can grow up to 7-10 meters tall and has leathery textured leaves that can reach up to 30 cm in length with 6-9 pairs of leaflets. Alupag thrives in places with a subtropical climate or tropical highlands and can be propagated by seed, which takes around two weeks to germinate.
Apitong	Knoll	16.23667	125.83	National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA), Philippines	Named from the Apitong tree, also known as the Philippine Mahogany. This tree is highly valued in the timber industry due to its incredible strength and durability. Its wood is used for a variety of purposes, ranging from heavy-duty vehicle flooring to high-end furniture. The Apitong tree is a tall, hardwood tree native to Southeast Asia. It can grow up to 60 meters tall and 2 meters in diameter, with a straight cylindrical trunk that is buttressed at the base.
Bagtikan	Ridge	15.50374	126.46071	National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA), Philippines	Named from the Bagtikan tree, also known as Parashorea malaanonan. This tree is a prominent native species that grows in the eastern part of the Philippines. It is considered one of the light red Philippine mahogany trees and is commonly referred to as white lauau in the market. The Bagtikan tree can grow to be 35 to 40 meters tall and has a flat and spreading crown that allows it to outgrow its surroundings. It is primarily found in primary woods at low elevations and is well-known for its superior wood quality. It is on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species because it is endangered.

Name	Feature Type	LAT	LONG	Proposer	History
Balorinay	Hill	9.76246	127.96879	National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA), Philippines	Named from the Balorinay (<i>Ptilinopus occipitalis</i>), a bird also known as the yellow-breasted fruit dove in English. This bird belongs to the Columbidae family and is endemic to the Philippines. It can be found in tropical moist lowland forests. Although it is classified as "least concern" by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), its population is declining due to habitat loss, hunting and trapping for illegal wildlife trade.
Bathala	Hill	14.05523	126.20024	National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA), Philippines	Named after “Bathala”, the supreme god, the creator, in ancient mythology among the Tagalogs. According to F. Landa Jocano’s Outline of Philippine Mythology (1969), Bathala is the grand conservator of the universe – the caretaker of nature and the creatures of the earth. From this, evolved the Filipino attitude of “bahala na” or “Let Bathala take care of it” which gives a person tremendous courage in the face of danger.
Bukaw	Hill	9.738333	127.825	National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA), Philippines	Named from the Bukaw, the Philippine Scops Owl, a unique owl species found only in Northern Mindanao, Philippines. It is considered "least concern" by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) but is classified as 'Endangered' or 'Vulnerable.' The Scops Owl is a small to medium-sized owl with distinguishing ear feathers, which lives on lowlands and foothills of forests.
Dainsuli	Knoll	9.14904	128.12608	National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA), Philippines	Named from the Dainsuli (<i>Hedychium philippinense</i>), an endemic and endangered ginger in the Philippines. It is the only ginger recorded in the country to grow on trees. It is an epiphyte and grows primarily in the wet tropical biome, on herbaceous plants with ‘pseudostems’ formed by leaf sheaths.
Dalikamata	Hill	12.09712	127.19718	National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA), Philippines	Named after “Dalikamata”, a Visayan goddess of the eyes and against eye ailments. Although generally kind, Dalikamata was known to punish malicious individuals, particularly by causing eye problems like blindness, which was linked to her association with butterflies and moths in an ancient Visayan community.
Ilang-ilang	Knoll	16.24477	125.65794	National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA), Philippines	Named from the "ilang-ilang" tree (<i>Cananga odorata</i>), a medium-sized tree that can reach 40 meters tall and 45 centimeters in diameter. It has an irregularly formed crown, and its fragrance can boost and elevate the mood. Ylang-ylang is the Spanish spelling of the Tagalog word ilang-ilang, a reduplication of the term "ilang" meaning "wilderness." This relates to the tree's natural habitat.
Kalaw	Hills	9.96771	127.77278	National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA), Philippines	Named from the “Kalaw”, local name of the Rufous Hornbill (<i>Buceros hydrocorax</i>), a bird species only found in the Philippines and primarily inhabit evergreen forests. The Kalaw is a large species of hornbill with a black face, dark brown wings and a huge bill. The Kalaw eats fruits, seeds, insects, and centipedes. It has been classified as a vulnerable species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in 2020.
Kamagong	Hills	16.133333	125.816667	National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA), Philippines	Named from the Kamagong (<i>Diospyros blancoi</i>), a tree species in the Philippines that can reach heights of up to 20-25 meters. It produces edible fruit known as 'Mabolo' or 'Velvet apple' that has a spherical to slightly elongated shape and a rough, brownish skin that feels velvety when touched. These fruits are commonly found in pairs on opposite sides of a branch. The Kamagong tree's wood is highly valued and has a long history of various use. The wood, known for its solidity, blackness, and durability, is ideal for making furniture, cabinets, and decorative pieces.

Name	Feature Type	LAT	LONG	Proposer	History
Kamantigi	Ridge	14.266667	125.2	National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA), Philippines	Named from the Kamantigi plant, also known as impatiens balsamina, balsam, garden balsam, rose balsam, touch-me-not, or spotted snapweed. This plant, native to Southern and Southeast Asia, is considered a therapeutic herb in the Philippines. The Kamantigi is a tall plant, generally standing to 20-75 cm, and has a soft stem with spiral leaves. Its vibrant blooms come in shades of pink, red, mauve, purple, lilac, or white, and attract bees, insects, and nectar-feeding birds. Its colorful presence creates a positive and vibrant atmosphere in gardens and landscapes.
Katala	Hills	10.4	127.9	National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA), Philippines	Named from the Katala, local name of the Philippine Cockatoo (Cacatua haematuropygia). This is a small white bird that has a red and yellow tail and is an endemic species of the Philippines. Its voice is said to be loud and harsh. The bird can be found in lowland primary and secondary forests throughout the country. The species has been classified as critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in 2017.
Lagundi	Hills	15.383333	127.25	National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA), Philippines	Named from the Lagundi (Vitex Negundo), a plant that has been traditionally used in the Philippines as an herbal medicine. Its primary use has been to alleviate respiratory issues such as coughs and asthma symptoms. The Lagundi leaves are characterized by a distinctive palmate appearance, with five-pointed leaves that resemble the fingers of a human hand.
Lalanug	Seamount	14.49378	125.40301	National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA), Philippines	Named from the Lalanug (Medinilla Stenobotrys Merr), an epiphytic glabrous shrub and a species of flowering plant in the Melastomataceae family. Critically endangered and endemic to the Philippines, the shrub is found in moist tropical forests. It is a small tree that grows up to 5 m tall. It has large, bright pink flowers that are bell-shaped and have five petals.
Libulan	Ridge	13.95018	125.40124	National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA), Philippines	Named after “Libulan”, a Visayan moon deity. Libulan, associated with sea turtles, was represented by them as his symbol, especially in his feminine aspect. The god was closely linked to the lunar phases, reflecting a predominantly timid or shy mood, rarely revealing his full glory for extended periods. Shamans in pre-colonial Visayan communities paid homage to his enigmatic nature through crossdressing, reflecting the demureness of this lunar deity.
Magbabaya	Hill	12.28648	127.2768	National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA), Philippines	Named after “Magbabaya”, the highest-ranking deity in ancient mythology among the Bukidnon people [ref: F. Landa Jocano’s Notes on Philippine Divinities (1968)]. Regarded as the ultimate and most potent deity, Magbabaya is venerated as the progenitor of all existence, having a divine and all-encompassing force, embodying both male and female qualities.
Malabayabas	Knolls	16.166667	125.833333	National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA), Philippines	Named from the Malabayabas (Tristaniaopsis Decorticata), a small to medium-sized tree up to 10 m tall, 40 to 60 cm in diameter. It is a timber species, endemic to the Philippines and found in many types of lowland to lower mountain forests, up to 1,300 m of altitude. Rates of habitat loss through logging and shifting cultivation have led to considerable population declines.
Mapulon	Hill	12.88898	126.9209	National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA), Philippines	Named after “Mapulon”, the god of seasons possessing the key to the ebb and flow of time and the agricultural in Tagalog mythology. F. Landa Jocano, in the book “Outline of Philippine Mythology” described Mapulon as one of the lesser divinities assisting Bathala. He is the husband of Ikapati, and the father of Anagolay.
Mindanao Serin	Hill	10.09346	127.63892	National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA), Philippines	Named from the Mindanao Serin (Chyrsochrythus mindanensis), a bird species seen in small numbers in the Mount Apo and Mount Kitanglad regions of eastern Mindanao, Philippines. Its habitat is limited and susceptible to climate change. With a small population approaching vulnerable status, the species is

Name	Feature Type	LAT	LONG	Proposer	History
Puñalada	Knoll	10.42763	127.85564	National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA), Philippines	classified as Near Threatened. It lives mostly in subtropical or tropical wet montane forests and high-altitude grassland. Named from the Puñalada, local name of the Mindoro Bleeding Heart (<i>Gallicolumba platenae</i>), a bird species endemic to the island of Mindoro, Philippines. The Puñalada prefers to live in primary and secondary lowland forests with a closed canopy and dry substrates on gentle slopes. Unfortunately, a large portion of its habitat has been destroyed due to deforestation and the species has been classified as critically endangered under the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN Red List of Threatened Species in 2016.
Sampaguita	Knoll	15.17404	124.77449	National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA), Philippines	Named from the flower Sampaguita (<i>Jasminum sambac</i>), the national flower of the Philippines. The name Sampaguita, a Spanish term, originates from the Filipino words "sumpa kita," which means "I promise you." This flower is a species of jasmine that is native to south Asia and is believed to have been imported into the Philippines from Himalayan areas in the 17th century. Governor-General Frank Murphy declared Sampaguita as the national flower in 1934. Sampaguita symbolizes purity, fidelity, and hope.
Suklang Malayon	Seamount	13.77965	125.60063	National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA), Philippines	Named after “Suklang Malayon”, a Visayan deity of homes and protectress of happiness who brought happiness to homes and was honored during many household events. She was known as a deity who cared for the women in the community, and those who sought support from other women were believed to be protected by her.
Portugal					
GLORIA	Fracture Zone	36.866667	-23.45	University of Paris IV, France; and Portuguese Hydrographic Office (Instituto Hidrografico)	GLORIA is the name of a long-range side-scan sonar vehicle that was used to gather data along the south-east flank of the Azores-Biscay Rise, in the summer of 1978 during an important geophysical expedition. GLORIA stands for Geological Long Range Inclined Asdic and was developed by the UK Institute of Oceanographic Sciences in 1960. GLORIA provided the geologists with valuable information about seafloor features and materials.
GLORIA	Seamount	45.03	-15.535	Task Group for the Extension of the Continental Shelf – EMEPC, Portugal	GLORIA is the name of a long-range side-scan sonar vehicle that was used to gather data along the south-east flank of the Azores-Biscay Rise, in the summer of 1978 during an important geophysical expedition. GLORIA stands for Geological Long Range Inclined Asdic and was developed by the UK Institute of Oceanographic Sciences in 1960. GLORIA provided the geologists with valuable information about seafloor features and materials.
Russia					
Yubko	Hills	13.0182	-134.4113	State Scientific Centre Yuzhmorgeologiya, Russia	Named after V.M. Yubco (1950-2022), the leading geologist of SSC Yuzhmorgeologia and a Russian world-known scientist. He was an explorer and expert in the field of searches and investigation, as well as of resource assessment of oceanic ferromanganese ores, in particular manganese polymetallic nodules of the Clarion-Clipperton ore zone.
USA					
Ontong Java	Plateau	-3.433826	158.619416	Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO), USA	Named from the nearby atoll of Ontong Java, Solomon Islands.

ACUF Duplicate Features							
#	UFI	Name	Feature Type	LAT	LONG	Notes	Recommendation
1	-152452	Axarfjarðardjúp	Valley	66.43333	-16.88333	duplicate ISL -2641758; 8nm from shore	refile to country file (within 12 nm)
2	-152607	Bethune Bank	Reef	-19.5833	-174.25	duplicate TON -2777963; 4.63nm from shore	refile to country file (within 12 nm)
3	-153275	Eia	Canyon	-7.86667	147.9333	duplicate PNG -2187936; 6.94nm from shore	refile to country file (within 12 nm)
4	-153440	Francisco	Canyon	-7.06667	147.0833	duplicate PNG -2188420; 1.1nm from shore	refile to country file (within 12 nm)
5	-153526	Gilbert	Ridge	1	173	duplicate KIR -1352531; .22nm from shore	refile to country file (within 12 nm)
6	-153534	Gira	Canyon	-7.88333	147.9833	duplicate PNG -2188918; 7.76nm from shore	refile to country file (within 12 nm)
7	-153870	Inner Gorda Bank	Reef	23.03333	-109.5167	duplicate MEX -1669343; 4.35nm from shore	refile to country file (within 12 nm)
8	-154051	Kolluáll	Valley	64.83333	-24.33333	duplicate ISL -2648822; 7.78nm from shore	refile to country file (within 12 nm)
9	-154143	Learmonth	Bank	54.41667	-133.0833	duplicate CAN -567828; 10nm from shore	refile to country file (within 12 nm)
10	-154347	Markham	Canyon	-6.75	147	duplicate PNG -2195079; .55nm from shore	refile to country file (within 12 nm)
11	-154651	New Hebrides	Ridge	-17	168.5	duplicate VUT -2138510; 4.13nm from shore	refile to country file (within 12 nm)
12	-154687	Nordbakken	Slope	71.18333	-8.116667	duplicate XJM -1306326; 1.81nm from shore	refile to country file (within 12 nm)
13	-154839	Outer Gorda	Bank	23.01667	-109.4667	duplicate MEX -1669344; 7.02nm from shore	refile to country file (within 12 nm)
14	-155323	Santa Cruz	Canyon	33.91667	-119.8167	within US 12nm territorial sea	refile to historical file (within 12 nm)
15	-155324	Santa Cruz-Catalina	Ridge	33.55	-118.75	within US 12nm territorial sea	refile to historical file (within 12 nm)
16	-155418	Seringapatam	Reef	-13.6333	122.0833	duplicate AUS -1599984	refile to country file (within 12 nm)
17	-155815	Tonga	Ridge	-21	-175	duplicate TON -2778434; 1.24nm from shore	refile to country file (within 12 nm)
18	-156038	Waria	Canyon	-7.71667	147.7667	duplicate PNG -2203255; 7.37nm from shore	refile to country file (within 12 nm)
19	-156136	Woodlark	Ridge	-9	152	duplicate PNG -2203737; .79nm from shore	refile to country file (within 12 nm)



United States Board on Geographic Names

295th Quarterly Meeting

Report of the Foreign Names Committee

January 28, 2025

**FOREIGN NAMES COMMITTEE
REPORT**

September 10 – December 10, 2024

1) MEETINGS

The Foreign Names Committee (FNC) met once since the last BGN meeting. Meeting 420 was held virtually (Microsoft Teams) on Tuesday, December 10, 2024. The next FNC meeting (Meeting 421) is scheduled for Tuesday, March 11, 2025.

Critical issues:

Nothing significant to report.

Staff recommendations: The Committee considered and approved the following recommendations:

- **Cameroon:** retired short and long-form Conventional names for the independent political entity
- **China:** changed the Uyghur language name type for the Xinjian first order administrative division and its seat to Approved
- **Cote d'Ivoire:** updated long-form names of the first-order administrative divisions; removed the first-order administrative seat designation for Bangolo in the Montagnes first-order administrative division
- **Egypt:** changed the Conventional name "Arabian Desert" to "Eastern Desert"
- **Ethiopia:** terminated the YeDebub Bihēroch Bihēreseboch na Hizboch (Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples) first-order administrative division and added two superseding first-order administrative divisions: Debub Ītyop'īya (South Ethiopia) and Ma'ikelawī Ītyop'īya (Central Ethiopia); designated two seats of first-order administrative divisions for South Ethiopia and Central Ethiopia
- **Fiji:** changed Fijian name of the independent political entity to Approved and added Fiji Hindi names for the independent political entity and capital
- **Togo:** added a first-order administrative seat for the Région Maritime first-order administrative division
- **Ukraine:** added a Conventional name for Snake Island

2) OTHER BUSINESS

The in-person BGN/PCGN conference was held 4-8 November 2024 at NGA-Washington.

From: [Tischler, Michael A](#)
To: (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: graphic check
Date: Friday, January 31, 2025 4:30:32 AM
Attachments: [GulfOfAmerica 8x11.jpg](#)
[GulfOfAmerica 3x4.jpg](#)

Hi (b) (6), (b) (6)

These are pretty straightforward, but may accompany a press release today. Please let me know if you have any issues.

Thanks,
m

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@state.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2025 7:21 AM
To: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Cc: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@state.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: graphic check

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Hi Mike,

Do you mean it shows the maritime boundaries between US/MX/CB? Feel free to send it along. Looping in (b) (6), State's Deputy member and our maritime boundary expert.

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

U.S. Department of State
Office: (b) (6) | TW: (b) (6)

From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2025 4:43 PM
To: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@state.gov>
Subject: graphic check

Hi (b) (6),

We are developing graphics/maps of GOA and Mount McKinley to accompany a press release for whenever the names will be changed. The GOA graphic we are making includes (I think...I haven't seen it personally) the international boundary.

Any chance you'd be able to review the graphic and make sure we aren't doing anything State/FNC wouldn't agree with?

Thanks,
;m

Mike Tischler, Ph.D
Director, National Geospatial Program
U.S. Geological Survey
Department of Interior
o: 703-648-4725
c: 703-344-4348
mtischler@usgs.gov

A topographic map of the Gulf of America region, showing the coastline of the United States from Texas to Florida. The map uses a color gradient to represent elevation, with green for lower elevations and brown/tan for higher elevations. Major rivers like the Mississippi and the Gulf of Mexico are clearly visible. State abbreviations are scattered across the landmass.

GULF OF AMERICA



GULF OF AMERICA

From: [Tischler, Michael A](#)
To: (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: graphic check
Date: Friday, January 31, 2025 4:35:46 AM

thank you!

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@state.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2025 7:35 AM
To: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Cc: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@state.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: graphic check

No concerns from our office. Thanks for the opportunity to review.

(b) (6)

U.S. Department of State

Office: (b) (6) | TW: (b) (6)

From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2025 7:31 AM
To: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@state.gov>
Cc: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: graphic check

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U.S. Department of State

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Mike Tischler, Ph.D

Director, National Geospatial Program

U.S. Geological Survey

Department of Interior

o: 703-648-4725

c: 703-344-4348

mtischler@usgs.gov

From: Tischler, Michael A
To: (b) (6)
Subject: Fw: EO/SO on renaming, FW: BGN follow-up
Date: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 9:36:02 AM
Attachments: [Clean - 2025.01.28 Draft S.O. - Implementation of Restoring Names that Honor American Greatness E.O..docx](#)
[Redline - 2025.01.28 Draft S.O. - Implementation of Restoring Names that Honor American Greatness E.O..docx](#)

From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 9:44 AM
To: Jones, Leslie W <ljones@usgs.gov>
Cc: Lacey, Jennifer A <jlacey@usgs.gov>; Killpack, Darcee <dkillpack@usgs.gov>
Subject: Fw: EO/SO on renaming, FW: BGN follow-up

Hi Leslie,

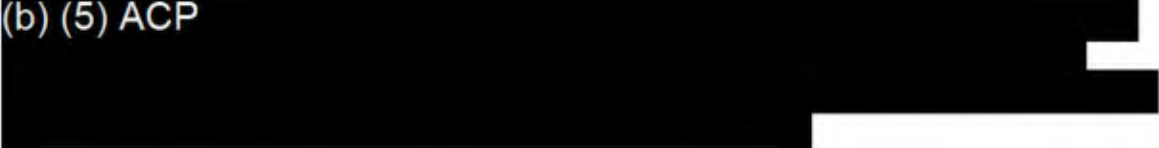
I am comfortable with the edits - you can attach the clean copy to the DTS.

thanks,
m

From: Myrick, Brett H <brett.myrick@sol.doi.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 9:39 AM
To: Ryker, Sarah J <sryker@usgs.gov>; Cameron, Scott J <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Farmer, Isis U <isis_farmer@ios.doi.gov>; Lukas, William A <wlukas@usgs.gov>; Jones, Leslie W <ljones@usgs.gov>; Lacey, Jennifer A <jlacey@usgs.gov>; Killpack, Darcee <dkillpack@usgs.gov>; Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; Irish, Tony C <Tony.Irish@sol.doi.gov>; Patnaik, Bivan R <bivan_patnaik@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: EO/SO on renaming, FW: BGN follow-up

All-

(b) (5) ACP



Redline and clean copies are attached.

Thank you,
Brett

Brett H. Myrick
Attorney-Adviser
Department of the Interior

Division of General Law - General Legal Services
brett.myrick@sol.doi.gov
202-208-3820 (work)
312-576-4798 (personal cell)

From: Ryker, Sarah J <sryker@usgs.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2025 8:20 PM
To: Myrick, Brett H <brett.myrick@sol.doi.gov>; Cameron, Scott J <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Farmer, Isis U <isis_farmer@ios.doi.gov>; Lukas, William A <wlukas@usgs.gov>; Jones, Leslie W <ljones@usgs.gov>; Lacey, Jennifer A <jlacey@usgs.gov>; Killpack, Darcee <dkillpack@usgs.gov>; Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; Irish, Tony C <Tony.Irish@sol.doi.gov>; Patnaik, Bivan R <bivan_patnaik@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: RE: EO/SO on renaming, FW: BGN follow-up

(b) (5) ACP

If the Department wanted to conduct some outreach to affected states before starting that sequence of actions, USGS could help support DOI on that.

Sarah J Ryker, PhD
Acting Director, U.S. Geological Survey
sryker@usgs.gov

From: Myrick, Brett H <brett.myrick@sol.doi.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2025 6:43 PM
To: Cameron, Scott J <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>; Ryker, Sarah J <sryker@usgs.gov>
Cc: Farmer, Isis U <isis_farmer@ios.doi.gov>; Lukas, William A <wlukas@usgs.gov>; Jones, Leslie W <ljones@usgs.gov>; Lacey, Jennifer A <jlacey@usgs.gov>; Killpack, Darcee <dkillpack@usgs.gov>; Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; Irish, Tony C <Tony.Irish@sol.doi.gov>; Patnaik, Bivan R <bivan_patnaik@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: EO/SO on renaming, FW: BGN follow-up

Scott-

(b) (5) ACP

Thanks,
Brett

Brett H. Myrick
Attorney-Adviser
Department of the Interior

Division of General Law - General Legal Services

brett.myrick@sol.doi.gov

202-208-3820 (work)

312-576-4798 (personal cell)

From: Cameron, Scott J <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>

Sent: Monday, January 27, 2025 6:05 PM

To: Myrick, Brett H <brett.myrick@sol.doi.gov>; Ryker, Sarah J <sryker@usgs.gov>

Cc: Farmer, Isis U <isis_farmer@ios.doi.gov>; Lukas, William A <wluke@usgs.gov>; Jones, Leslie W <ljones@usgs.gov>; Lacey, Jennifer A <jlacey@usgs.gov>; Killpack, Darcee <dkillpack@usgs.gov>; Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; Irish, Tony C <Tony.Irish@sol.doi.gov>; Patnaik, Bivan R <bivan_patnaik@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: RE: EO/SO on renaming, FW: BGN follow-up

Brett,

(b) (5) ACP

Thanks,

Scott

Scott J. Cameron

Senior Advisor to the Secretary, exercising the delegated authority of the Assistant Secretary – Water and Science and exercising the delegated authority of the Assistant Secretary – Insular and International Affairs

202.330.1398

From: Myrick, Brett H <brett.myrick@sol.doi.gov>

Sent: Monday, January 27, 2025 6:02 PM

To: Cameron, Scott J <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>; Ryker, Sarah J <sryker@usgs.gov>

Cc: Farmer, Isis U <isis_farmer@ios.doi.gov>; Lukas, William A <wluke@usgs.gov>; Jones, Leslie W <ljones@usgs.gov>; Lacey, Jennifer A <jlacey@usgs.gov>; Killpack, Darcee <dkillpack@usgs.gov>; Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; Irish, Tony C <Tony.Irish@sol.doi.gov>; Patnaik, Bivan R <bivan_patnaik@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: Re: EO/SO on renaming, FW: BGN follow-up

Scott-

(b) (5) ACP

Thank you,
Brett

Brett H. Myrick
Attorney-Adviser
Department of the Interior
Division of General Law - General Legal Services
brett.myrick@sol.doi.gov
202-208-3820 (work)
312-576-4798 (personal cell)

From: Cameron, Scott J <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2025 5:46 PM
To: Ryker, Sarah J <sryker@usgs.gov>
Cc: Farmer, Isis U <isis_farmer@ios.doi.gov>; Lukas, William A <wlukas@usgs.gov>; Jones, Leslie W <ljones@usgs.gov>; Lacey, Jennifer A <jlacey@usgs.gov>; Killpack, Darcee <dkillpack@usgs.gov>; Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; Irish, Tony C <Tony.Irish@sol.doi.gov>; Myrick, Brett H <brett.myrick@sol.doi.gov>; Patnaik, Bivan R <bivan_patnaik@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: RE: EO/SO on renaming, FW: BGN follow-up

All,

(b) (5) ACP

Thanks,
Scott

Scott J. Cameron
Senior Advisor to the Secretary, exercising the delegated authority of the Assistant

Secretary – Water and Science and exercising the delegated authority of the Assistant
Secretary – Insular and International Affairs

202.330.1398

From: Ryker, Sarah J <sryker@usgs.gov>

Sent: Monday, January 27, 2025 4:12 PM

To: Cameron, Scott J <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Farmer, Isis U <isis_farmer@ios.doi.gov>; Lukas, William A <wlukas@usgs.gov>; Jones, Leslie W <ljones@usgs.gov>; Lacey, Jennifer A <jlacey@usgs.gov>; Killpack, Darcee <dkillpack@usgs.gov>; Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; Irish, Tony C <Tony.Irish@sol.doi.gov>; Myrick, Brett H <brett.myrick@sol.doi.gov>; Patnaik, Bivan R <bivan_patnaik@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: EO/SO on renaming, FW: BGN follow-up

Scott,

Attached is a draft Secretary's Order to implement the Executive Order "Restoring Names That Honor American Greatness". This draft was developed collaboratively by the USGS and the Solicitor's office, with input from key BGN officials including the BGN State Dept. representative. A few notes:

1. Sec. 2 of the EO calls for agency review of all agency BGN appointees. The USGS has sent forward through DTS a memo to the Secretary's office in support of the DOI membership review. Therefore, this draft does not include any additional guidance for implementation of that request. However, additional instruction can be added if the department feels it appropriate.
2. Sec. 4c of the draft corresponds to EO sec. 2d, but this is a situation that we don't anticipate will arise.
3. Sec. 4d of the draft corresponds to EO sec. 5. This section of the draft is less detailed because it is not a BGN or USGS function and will need some additional DOI decision-making over who should implement and in what timeframe. (E.g. I'll posit that it might be a responsibility for DOI's Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs, and note that the need to prepare announcements in time for July 4, 2026, will be time-constraining on that process.)

This draft aims to help DOI address all relevant sections of the EO, but we can edit/adjust based on your feedback.

I'm CCing our leads at USGS and SOL, as well as Bivan – thank you, all!

Sarah J Ryker, PhD
Acting Director, U.S. Geological Survey
sryker@usgs.gov

From: Cameron, Scott J <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2025 5:24 PM
To: Ryker, Sarah J <sryker@usgs.gov>; Caminiti, Mariagrazia <Marigrace_Caminiti@sol.doi.gov>
Cc: Farmer, Isis U <isis_farmer@ios.doi.gov>; Jones, Leslie W <ljones@usgs.gov>; Lukas, William A <wylukas@usgs.gov>; Lacey, Jennifer A <jlacey@usgs.gov>; Irish, Tony C <Tony.Irish@sol.doi.gov>; Patnaik, Bivan R <bivan_patnaik@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: BGN follow-up

Hi Sarah,

Please have USGS draft a secretarial order telling USGS to execute the EO. Talk with Tony Irish in Sol so we get it in the right format to hand off to Bivan in Exec Sec.

It would be much appreciated if you could get a draft to Tony on Monday.

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From: Ryker, Sarah J <sryker@usgs.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2025 5:02:29 PM
To: Cameron, Scott J <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Farmer, Isis U <isis_farmer@ios.doi.gov>; Jones, Leslie W <ljones@usgs.gov>; Lukas, William A <wylukas@usgs.gov>; Lacey, Jennifer A <jlacey@usgs.gov>
Subject: BGN follow-up

Scott,

I just asked the USGS folks who support the Board on Geographic Names to confirm that we don't need a fully populated and sitting BGN to implement name changes initiated by EO/SO. I just got this confirmation back:

The BGN plays essentially no part when the name change is the result of an EO or SO. The BGN does not need to approve the name, because it has already been approved by someone with the authority.

As a side note, our folks are anxious to get the BGN populated as the Board fields a lot of changes requested by the public. But that process can continue in parallel with the EO-directed changes.

In case you could use more detail on this, I'm CCing Jenn Lacey, our Associate Director for Core Science Systems – she oversees the BGN processes.

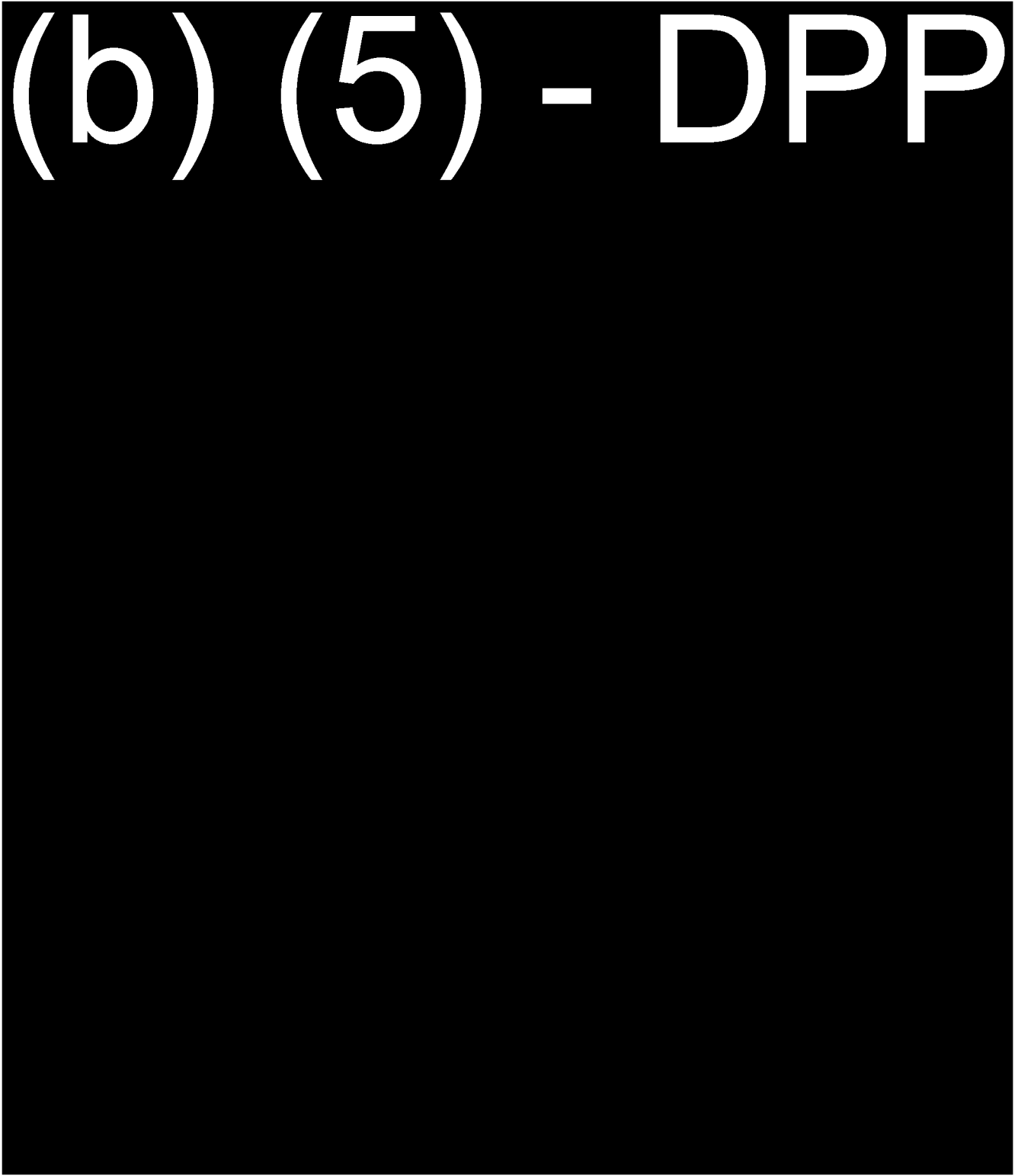
Sarah J Ryker, PhD
Acting Director, U.S. Geological Survey
sryker@usgs.gov

DRAFT

ORDER NO. XXXX

Subject: Implementation of Executive Order “Restoring Names That Honor American Greatness”

(b) (5) - DPP



DRAFT

(b) (5) - DPP

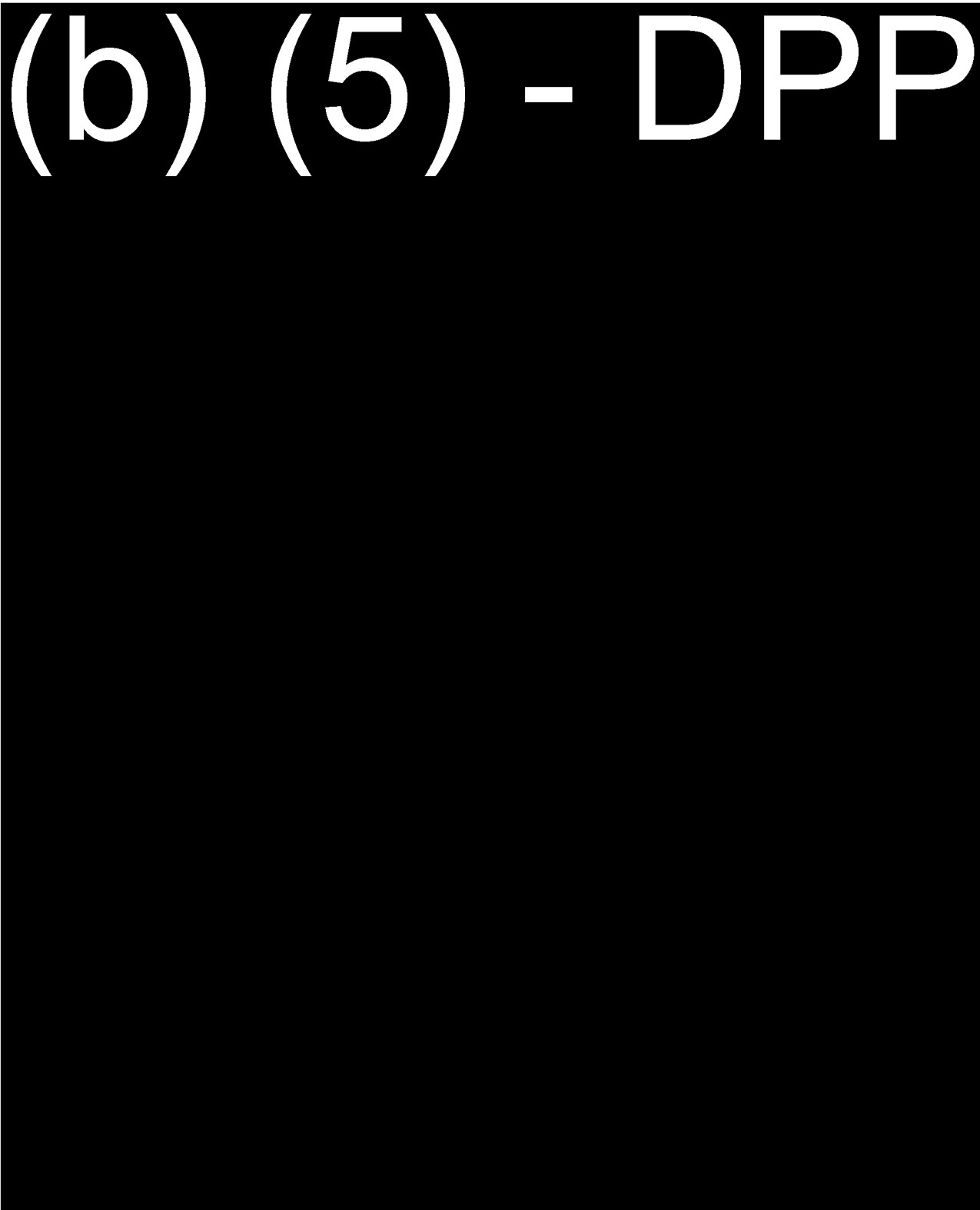


DRAFT

ORDER NO. XXXX

Subject: Implementation of Executive Order “Restoring Names That Honor American Greatness”

(b) (5) - DPP



(b) (5) - DPP

