
CHAPTER 2 RESPONSIBILITIES AND COORDINATION
APPENDIX A COORDINATION OF PHOTOGRAPHIC AND MAPPING ACTIVITIES

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND AGREEMENT**
BETWEEN
THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION AND THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
ON
COORDINATION OF AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY AND TOPOGRAPHIC MAPPING

1. The recommendations of the Minerals Committee, as accepted by the Interior Department Coordinating Committee, define certain responsibilities of both the Bureau of Reclamation and the Geological Survey with respect to the mapping requirements of the Bureau and the related interests of the Survey. In order to insure the close cooperation required in carrying out the provisions of the recommendations, and a clear understanding thereof, these recommendations, with slight modifications and clarifications, are hereby confirmed in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement. The essence of this understanding may be stated as follows: (1) So far as possible, all mapping should be done in such a manner that it constitutes a direct contribution to the standard quadrangle mapping of the United States. It is only by this means that the repeated preparation of special-purpose maps which do not contribute to the general mapping program can be eliminated or held to a minimum. (2) Since a primary responsibility of the Geological Survey is the preparation of a topographic map of the United States in accordance with national standards of accuracy and completeness, the services of the Geological Survey shall be used in the preparation of all small-scale maps (scales smaller than 1:6000) required by the Bureau of Reclamation.

2. The Bureau of Reclamation and the Geological Survey, hereinafter referred to as the Bureau, and the Survey, respectively, hereby agree to the provisions of the measures as described in sub-paragraphs a to h following, and affirm that the measures as clarified and revised comply in all essentials with the recommendations of the Coordinating Committee, and further declare it to be a policy that the Bureau and the Survey will at all times seek to develop positive means whereby the special facilities and capabilities of each organization will be made readily available to the other.

(a) As far in advance of actual needs as possible, the Bureau will furnish written information to the Survey as to proposed projects for aerial photography, and topographic mapping covering more than 20 square miles of area and at scales smaller than 1:6000, together with the required date of completion.

(b) On projects involving only aerial photography and/or mosaics and/or photo indexes, the Survey will review the submitted specifications looking toward the later use of the photographs by the Survey in the production of standard quadrangle maps. Excepted from this provision are limited areas of large-scale photography

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CHAPTER 2 RESPONSIBILITIES AND COORDINATION
APPENDIX A COORDINATION OF PHOTOGRAPHIC AND MAPPING ACTIVITIES

(1:10,000 or larger), or oblique photography, or photographs procured for other than mapping purposes. Specifications for these particular projects will be reviewed by the Survey only when specifically requested by the Bureau.

- (c) On projects involving topographic mapping at scales smaller than 1:6000, the Survey will expeditiously inform the Bureau as to whether or not it can (a) carry out the project with available personnel, and (b) has funds available for the work.

Obviously the mapping desired by the Bureau at the larger scales (1:6000 and larger) partakes of the nature of detailed engineering surveys for specific projects, and the results from the standpoint of content and accuracy should be more than adequate when reduced to the map scales customary for quadrangle mapping. For maps on these larger scales, therefore, the Survey has only a limited interest, and should act only in a consulting capacity, as to operational methods and specification policy if the Bureau so desires. Mapping at scales smaller than 1:6000, on the other hand, approaches the type that contributes, both from the standpoint of areas involved and map content, to work that can be incorporated directly into quadrangle coverage. Here the interest of the Survey is paramount, and it is believed that the Survey should render every service to assure that the work performed will meet the requirements of the Bureau and will also be of accuracy and general quality adequate for use in standard quadrangle maps in furtherance of the National Mapping Program.

- (d) In the event the Survey has personnel available it will perform the work either by use of its own funds, if the mapping areas can be included in the Survey's then current program with proper justification, otherwise the Bureau shall transfer the funds to the Survey.

- (e) In the event the Survey has no personnel available, and deems it unfeasible to procure the mapping by direct contracts with commercial firms, the Survey will so inform the Bureau and will advise the Bureau as to the essential map specifications which should pertain in order that the results of the work may be utilized by the Survey in the preparation of standard quadrangle maps.

- (f) The Bureau will then proceed to perform the work or to obtain bids for the execution of the work by private operators. The Survey shall receive a copy of the specifications as advertised and, whenever feasible, will, upon request, act as consultant and advisor to the Bureau in the award of such bids.

- (g) The Survey's topographic organization will supervise, inspect, and test, as an agent of the Bureau, the work of the contractor and

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CHAPTER 2 RESPONSIBILITIES AND COORDINATION
APPENDIX A COORDINATION OF PHOTOGRAPHIC AND MAPPING ACTIVITIES

will certify to the Bureau that the work has been performed according to specifications prior to the payment to the contractor for the work done.

(h) The Survey shall receive a copy of all completed maps for the records and shall have access to other essential related data. The Survey may use this information as required in the preparation and revision of standard quadrangle maps. Bureau data on horizontal and vertical ground control will be preserved and filed by the Bureau in such manner as to facilitate location and reproduction of information upon request from the Survey. The Survey will make available upon request any control data desired by the Bureau.

3. Appropriate instructions will be issued by each party to make effective the items agreed upon and to clarify the procedures necessary. To the extent practicable and upon request, field offices of the Survey will supply informal advice to field offices of the Bureau on mapping problems.

4. This memorandum is a formal expression and extension of an informal agreement which has been in effect since July 1, 1946, and is hereby continued in effect until such time as it may be appropriate to revise it. This agreement is intended to serve as a general guide as to the kind and degree of cooperation and coordination desirable in mapping matters between the Bureau and the Survey, and may be supplemented by more specific agreements to cover particular mapping or other projects whenever desirable.

(sgd.) Michael W. Straus
Commissioner, Bureau of
Reclamation

(sgd.) W. E. Wrather
Director, Geological Survey

January 3, 1947

Approved:

Warren W. Gardner
Assistant Secretary

January 17, 1947

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Washington 25, D.C.

In reply
refer to 200

June 19, 1963

To: Director, Geological Survey
Assistant
From: Commissioner of Reclamation

Subject: Modification of procedures for review of specifications
for proposed aerial photography and topographic mapping

The Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement on Coordination of Aerial Photography and Topographic Mapping, signed in 1947, calls for Bureau of Reclamation specifications for topographic mapping to be submitted to the Geological Survey for review in advance of obtaining proposals (or advertising for bids, if appropriate) from private firms. This review is made so that the Survey's interests in connection with the National Mapping Program can be ascertained, and so that we may be advised of any mapping which the Survey has planned, or in progress, that might satisfy our requirements. Members of our respective staffs have been working on means of streamlining existing procedures.

In the past, it has been our practice to provide the Geological Survey with copies of the complete specifications covering the proposed mapping just prior to mailing out invitations to prospective contractors. We have then communicated the results of the review by the Geological Survey to the office that prepared the specifications before it released the invitations. As agreed over the telephone between Messrs. Francis L. Witkege of your staff, and D. C. Seeley of this Bureau, this requirement for preliminary review could be met by submitting a comparatively few key items of information concerning the work proposed, instead of the complete specifications. These items would consist of the size of the area, the scale and contour interval, photographic characteristics, a location map or sketch, and the date that the mapping is needed. These data could be submitted at an earlier date than could the completed specifications and could be handled by teletype. We would thus be able to shorten the elapsed time before award of contract without sacrificing any essential coordination.

As discussed with Mr. Witkege, the Bureau now has sufficient background in preparing specifications so that the resulting mapping would be satisfactory for incorporation by the Geological Survey in quadrangle maps in the majority of cases. In any

unusual cases, it would still be optional, however, for the Bureau to submit specifications in preliminary form to the Survey to obtain assistance before final preparation. It has been of great assistance to have this advice by the Survey in such instances in the past. We will continue to furnish your agency information on the completed work, and copies of the completed maps.

This memorandum will serve to confirm the principles developed by Messrs. Witkege and Seeley as to the future procedure for collaboration between our two agencies on furnishing information regarding proposed mapping and aerial photography.

/s/ N. B. Bennett, Jr.

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