



# Updates from NGS: Improvements to OPUS Projects and Updates on the National Spatial Reference System

Jacob Heck

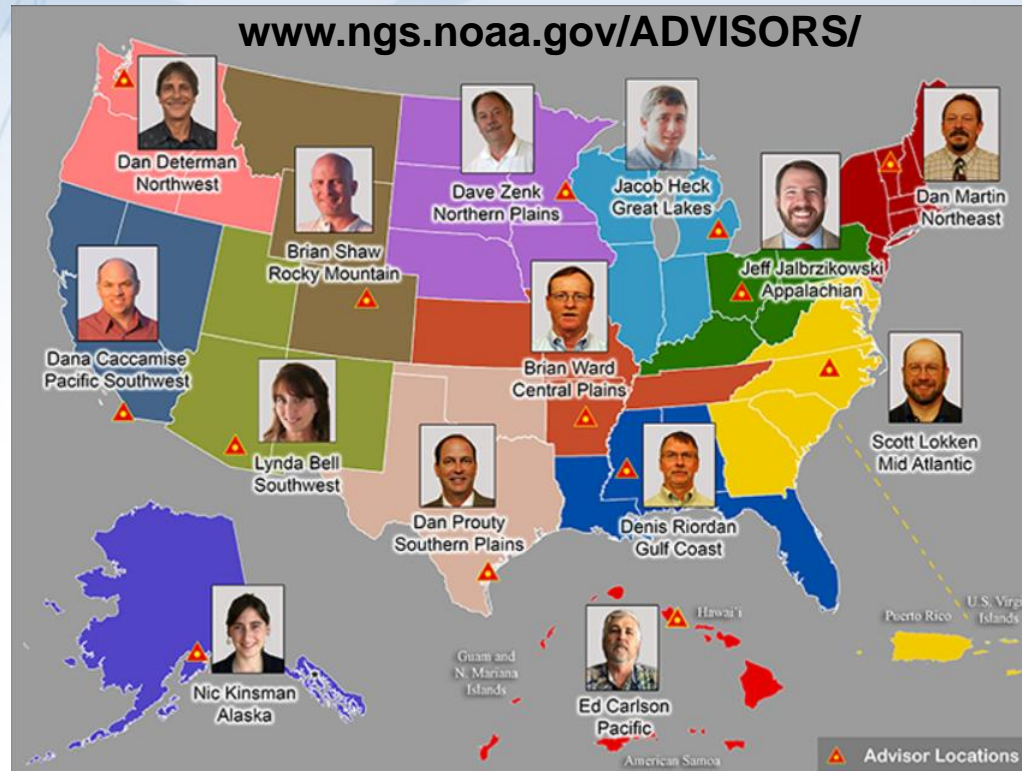
NGS Great Lakes Regional Geodetic Advisor  
ISPLS 2023 Convention

# My Background

- Great Lakes Regional Geodetic Advisor (IN, IL, WI, MI)
- Previously at NGS Headquarters Geosciences Research Division
- B.S. Surveying Engineering at Michigan Tech
- Ph.D. in Geodetic Science at The Ohio State University
- Professional Surveyor (MI)



# Regional Geodetic Advisor Program



# Deprecation of the US Survey Foot

- U.S. survey foot was deprecated on December 31, 2022
- But use can continue for SPCS 83 (and SPCS 27)
  - The 40 states that “officially” use U.S. foot for SPCS 83
  - All SPCS 27 zones
  - NGS will support such “legacy” use forever
  - But **NOT** supported for **ANY** zones in SPCS2022

**NGS will always support  
U.S. survey foot for SPCS 83 and 27**



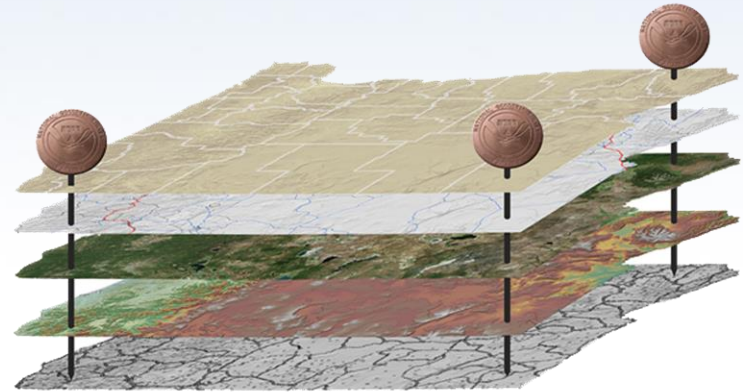
# **NSRS MODERNIZATION STATUS AND UPDATES**

# The National Spatial Reference System (NSRS)

**NGS defines, maintains and provides access to the NSRS to meet our Nation's economic, social & environmental needs**

Latitude • Longitude • Elevation  
• Gravity • Shoreline Position  
+ changes over time

- North American Datum of 1983 (**NAD 83**)
- North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (**NAVD 88**)



**Today's NSRS**

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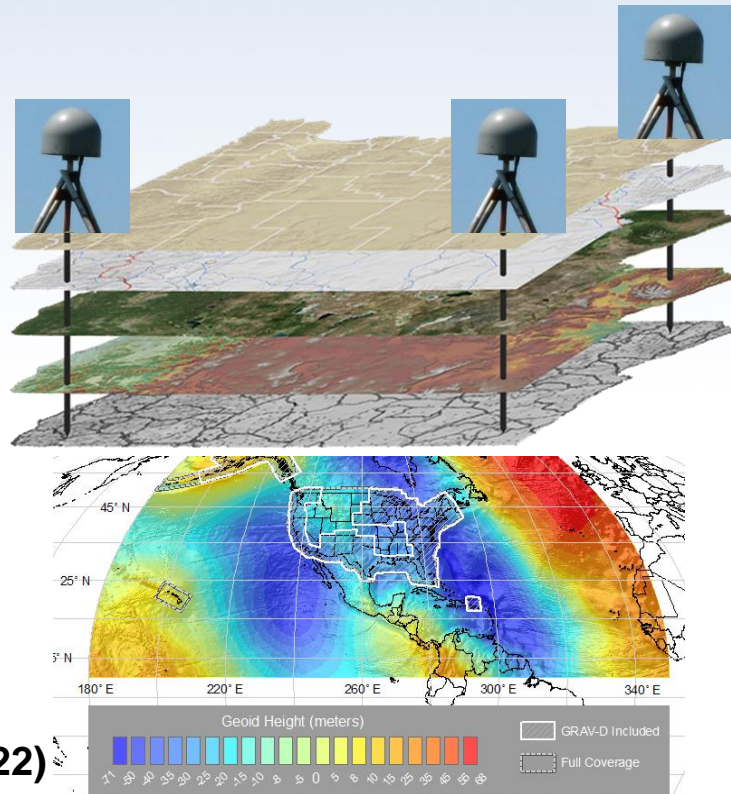
North American Terrestrial Reference Frame (NATRF2022)

Caribbean Terrestrial Reference Frame (CATRF2022)

Pacific Terrestrial Reference Frame (PATRF2022)

Marianas Terrestrial Reference Frame (MATRF2022)

**North America and Pacific Geopotential Datum (NAPGD2022)**



# Number of SPCS2022 zones (preliminary)

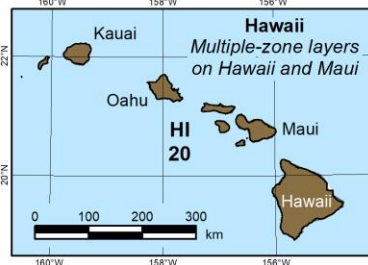
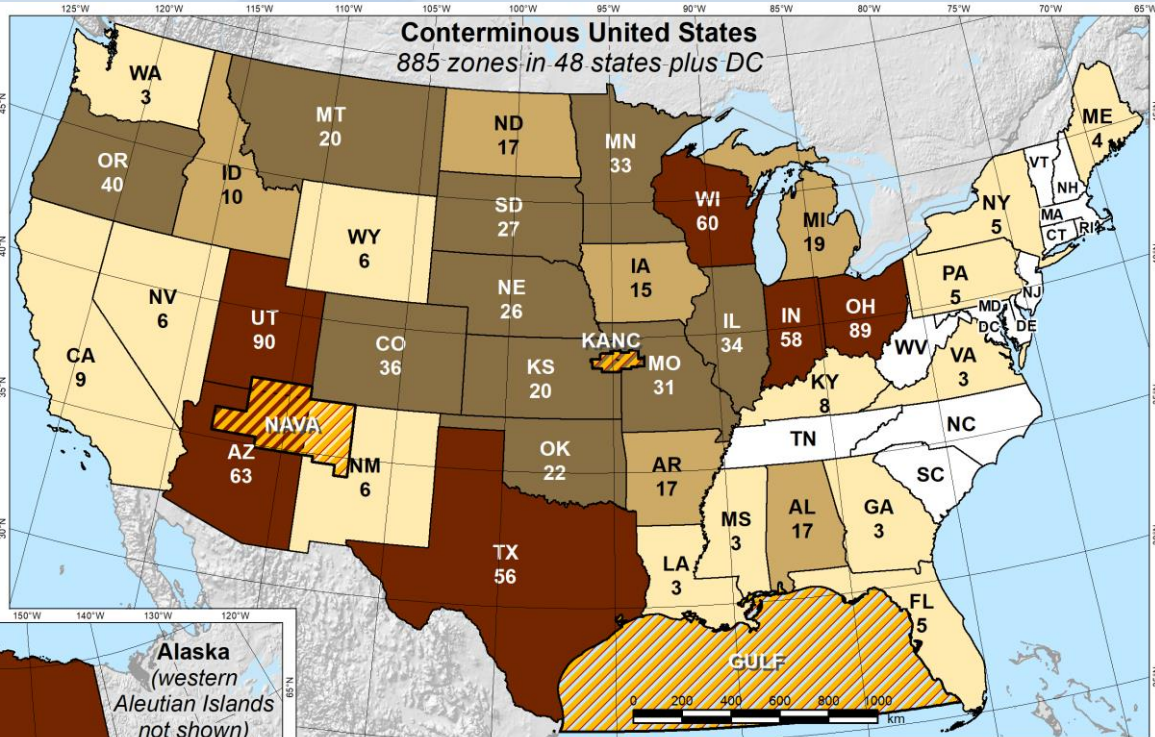
(CONUS,  
Alaska,  
and Hawaii)

Three island  
zones not shown:

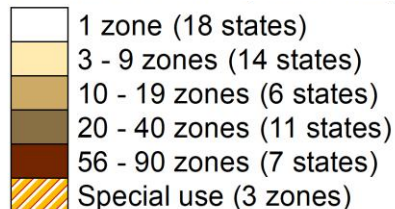
*Puerto Rico and  
U.S. Virgin  
Islands*

*American Samoa*

*Guam and  
Commonwealth of  
the Northern  
Mariana Islands*



## Total 968 zones





# Getting acquainted with SPCS2022

- **Distortion design philosophy**
  - ***Linear distortion*** minimized at topographic surface (***not*** at ellipsoid surface)
  - ***Purpose:*** to reduce difference between projected “grid” and actual “ground” distances
- **Other things:**
  - Zone “layers”
  - Low distortion projections (LDPs)
  - Indiana designs approved by NGS in October 2022
  - Will be implemented with the Modernized (2022) NSRS

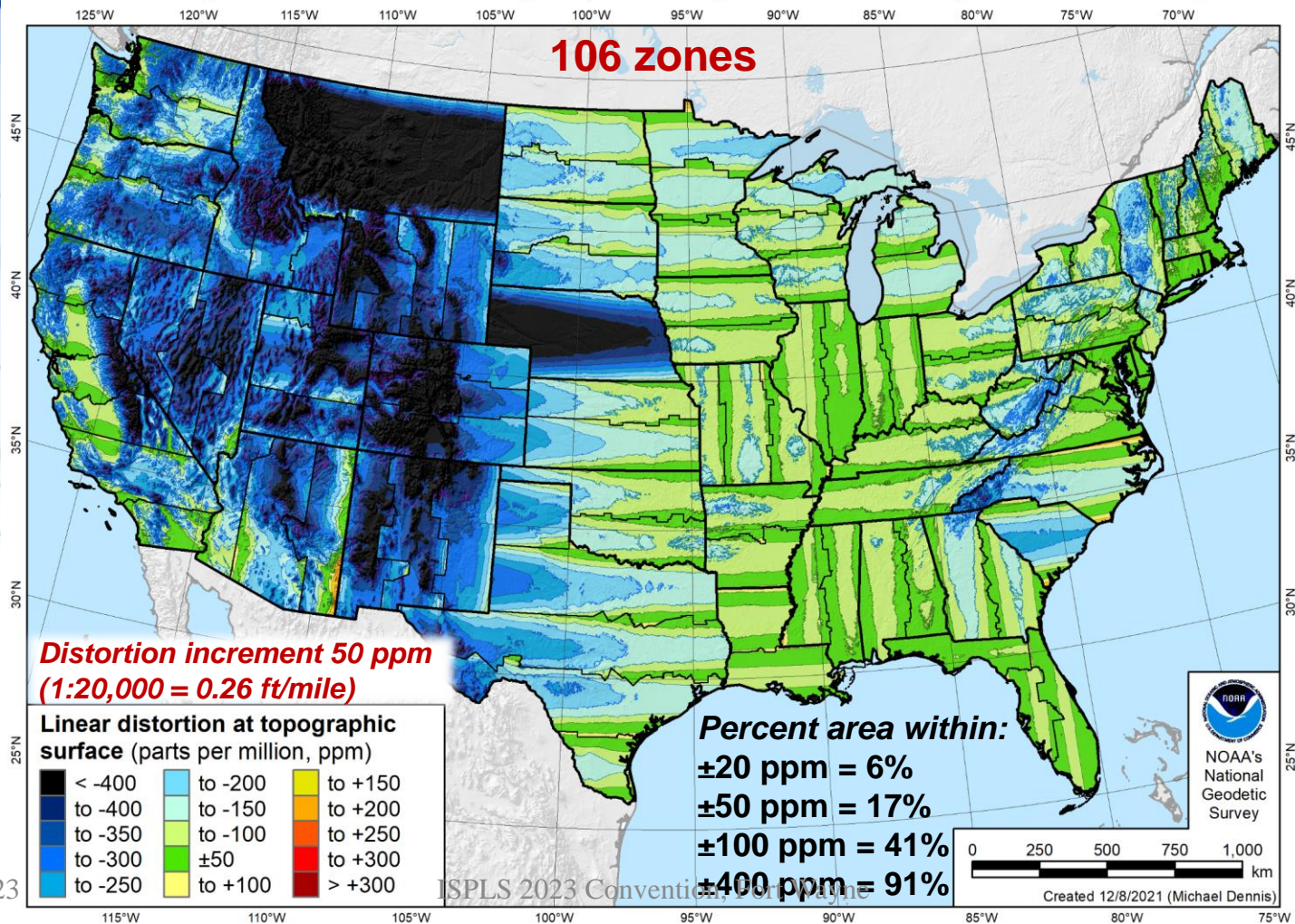


# Linear distortion magnitudes

Parts per million	Centimeters per kilometer	Feet per mile	Dimensionless ratio
20 ppm	2 cm/km	0.1 ft/mile	1:50,000
50 ppm	5 cm/km	0.3 ft/mile	1:20,000
100 ppm	10 cm/km	0.5 ft/mile	1:10,000
400 ppm	40 cm/km	2.1 ft/mile	1:2,500

# Existing SPCS83 zone designs (CONUS), with 2-zone layer for Kentucky

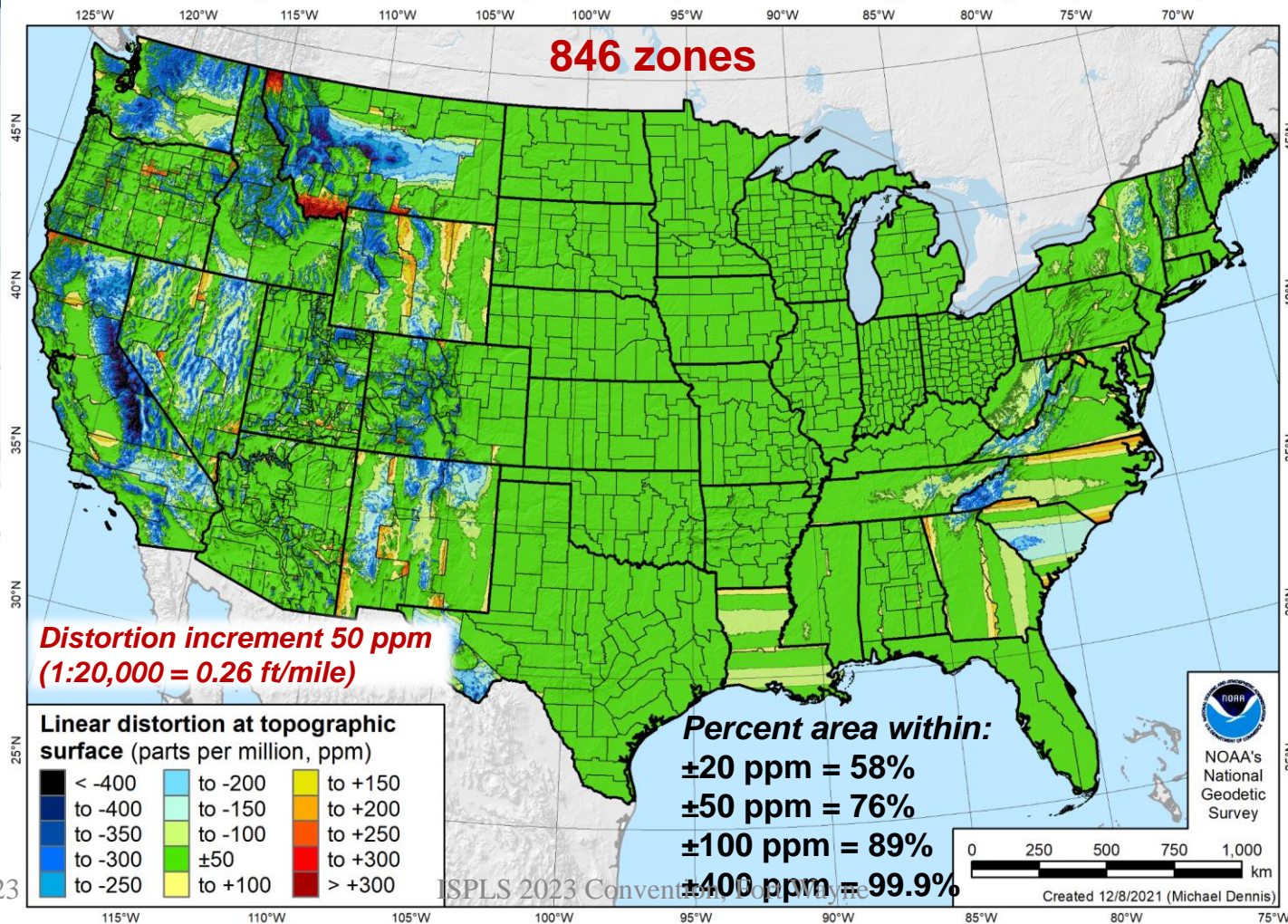
noaa.gov





# Preliminary SPCS2022 complete and partial coverage designs (CONUS)

noaa.gov



01/20/2023

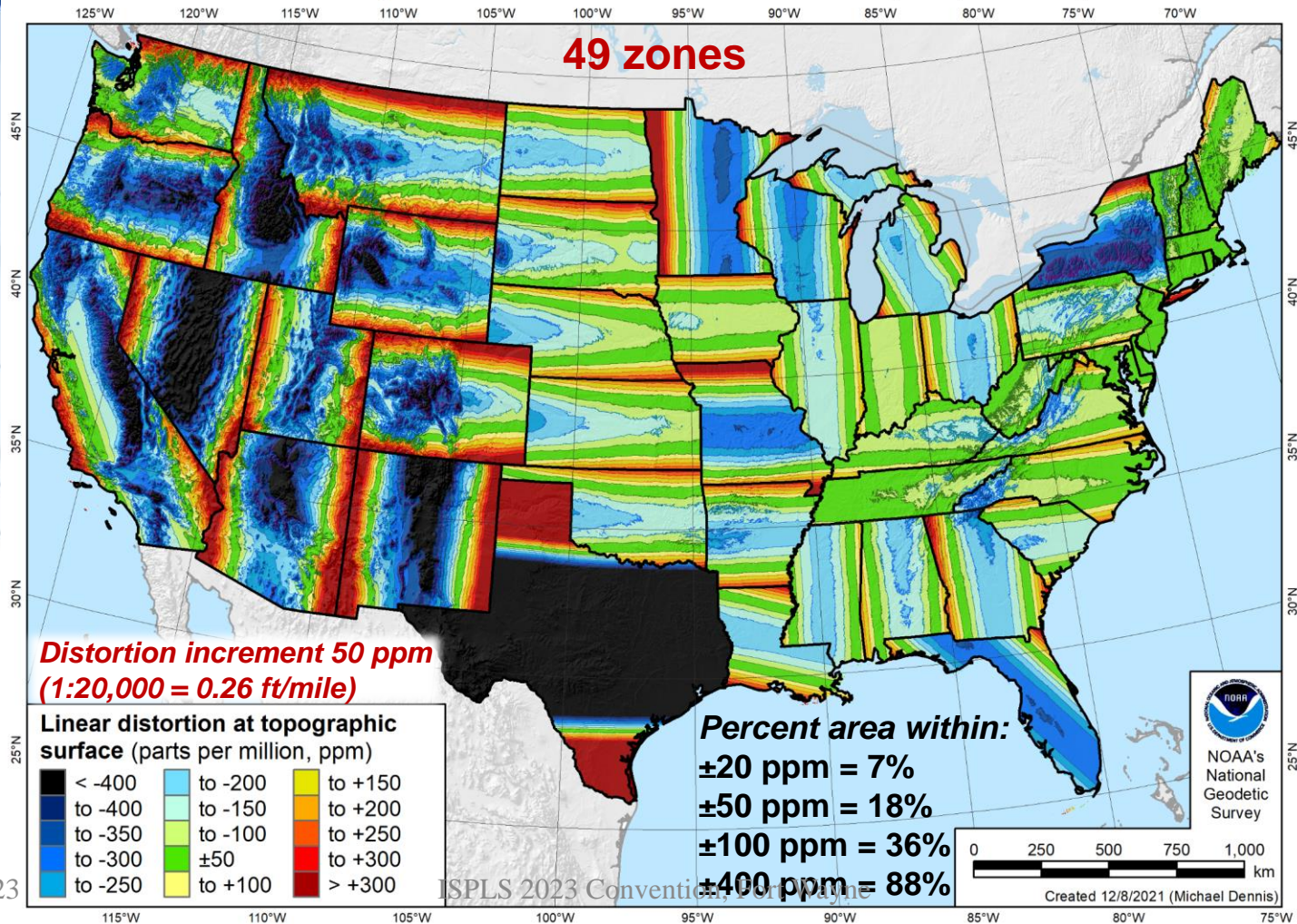
ISPLS 2023 Convention, 30 April 2023

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# Preliminary SPCS2022 statewide zone designs (CONUS)

noaa.gov

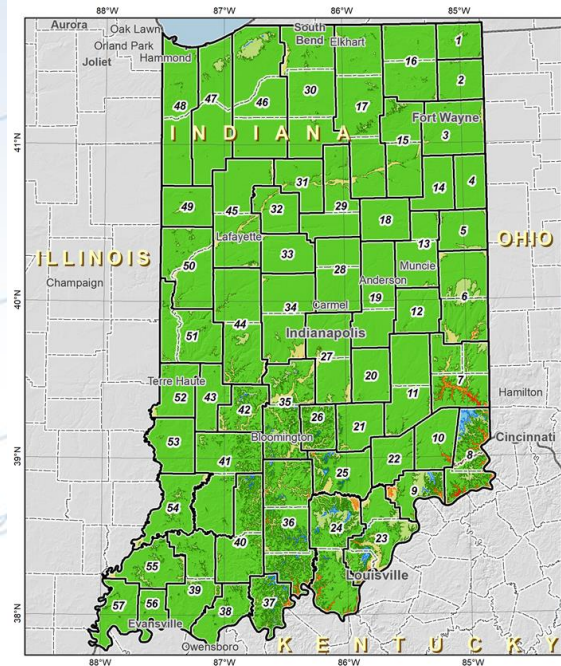


01/20/2023

ISPLS 2023 Convention

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# Indiana SPCS2022 Layers



## Preliminary SPCS2022 design Indiana complete coverage layer (57 zones)



North American Terrestrial Reference Frame of 2022

### Distortion statistics (ppm)

	Cities	Area
Mean	-13	-17
weighted by population	Max +16	+22
	Range 30	40
	Mean +0.5	+0.02

### Percent within distortion ranges

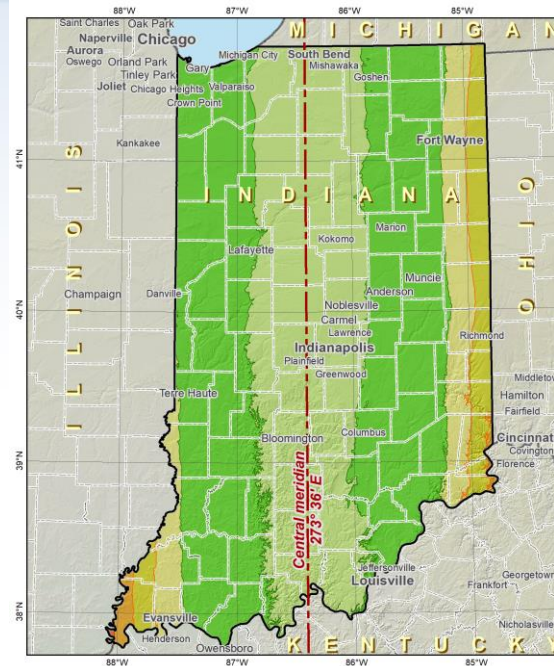
Range	Pop	Cities	Area
±5 ppm	92%	88%	90%
±10 ppm	99.5%	97%	99.1%
±15 ppm	99.99%	99.6%	99.9%
±20 ppm	100%	100%	99.999%
±25 ppm	100%	100%	100%
±30 ppm	100%	100%	100%
±40 ppm	100%	100%	100%
±50 ppm	100%	100%	100%
±75 ppm	100%	100%	100%

### Linear distortion at topographic surface (parts per million)

< -30	to -15	to +15
to -30	to -10	to +20
to -25	±5	to +25
to -20	to +10	> +25



Created 10/28/2022 (Michael Dennis)



## Preliminary SPCS2022 statewide zone design: Indiana (NGS design)



### Transverse Mercator projection

North American Terrestrial Reference Frame of 2022

Central meridian: 273° 36' E

Cen merid scale: 0.999 96 (exact)

### Areas within ±75 ppm distortion (1:13,333 = ±0.40 ft per mile):

94% of population

88% of all cities and towns

87% of entire zone area

### Distortion values (ppm)

Entire zone:	Cities and towns:
Min = -81	Min, Max = -80, +172
Max = +222	Range = 252
Range = 303	Mean = -20
Mean = -11	(weighted by population)

### Linear distortion at topographic surface (parts per million)

< -400	to -200	to +150
to -400	to -150	to +200
to -350	to -100	to +250
to -300	±50	to +300
to -250	to +100	> +300



Created 06/01/2019 (Michael Dennis)



# What to expect for SPCS2022

- **Coordinates will change by at least 10,000 m**
  - Latitude and longitude change about 1-2 m
  - Rest of change due to projection definition
- **Less difference between “grid” and “ground”**
- **More than one zone layer in most states**
  - Zones will be similar to SPCS 83 in some states
  - Zones will be very different in most states
- **Every state will have a statewide zone layer**

# SPCS2022 summary

- Minimize distortion at ***topo surface***, *not* ellipsoid
- Up to **3 zone “layers”** allowed
  - Some layers very similar to existing SPCS 83
  - Some layers very different
- **Total of 968 zones** (likely will decrease somewhat):
  - 54 statewide zones
  - 911 zones that cover part of a state
  - 3 special use zones
- Will be implemented along with Modernized NSRS
  - Earlier usage with NAD 83 will not be supported by NGS
  - ***Can change/add/remove zones after modernized NSRS***

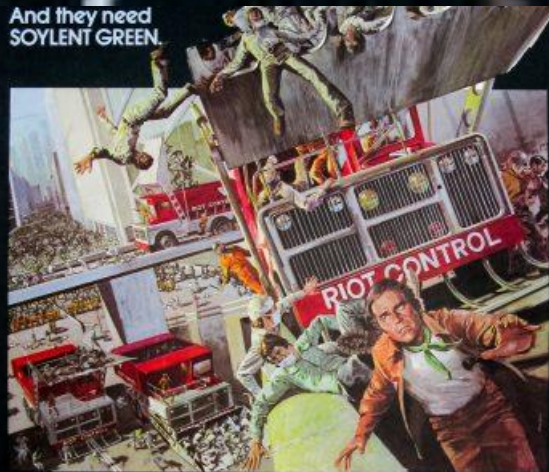
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**NGS will always support  
U.S. survey foot for SPCS 83 and 27**

# It's the year 2022...

And they need  
SOYLENT GREEN.



## SOYLENT GREEN

MGM Presents  
A Metrocolor Production  
Starring CHARLTON HESTON • LEIGH TAYLOR-YOUNG • SOYLENT GREEN  
Co-Starring CHUCK CONNORS • JOSEPH COTTEN • BROCK PETERS • PAULA KELLY and EDWARD G. ROBINSON  
Screenplay by STANLEY R. GREENBERG • HARRY HARRISON • Based on the novel by J. P. McEvoy  
Produced by WALTER SELTZER and RUSSELL THACHER • Directed by RICHARD FLEISCHER  
METROCOLOR • MANGUSON

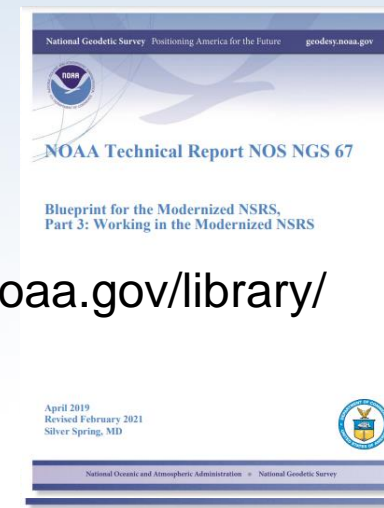
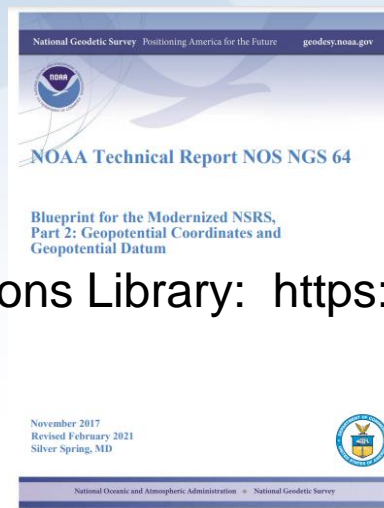
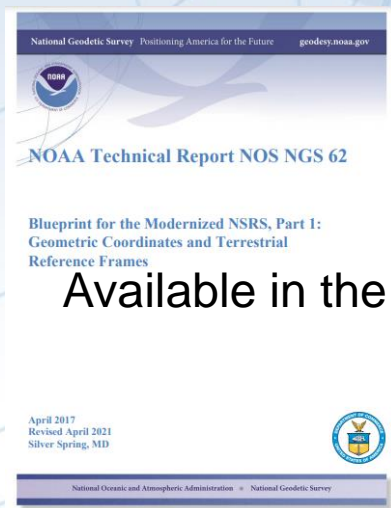
ISPLS 2023 Convention, Fort Wayne

# NSRS Modernization: Delay

- Will names change?
  - No, “GEOID2022”, “NATRF2022”, etc. will remain the same
- NGS anticipates the release of all data, and limited tools, by the **middle of 2025**.
  - Some of this may depend on things outside of NGS control (we have already delayed beyond 2022!)
- Work on additional tools will continue in the out-years



# Updated blueprint documents



Available in the NGS Publications Library: <https://geodesy.noaa.gov/library/>

## Geometric:

Sep 2017

*Revised April 2021*

**NOAA TR NOS NGS 62**

61 pages

## Geopotential:

Nov 2017

*Revised Feb 2021*

**NOAA TR NOS NGS 64**

53 pages

## Working in the Modernized NSRS:

April 2019

*Revised Feb 2021*

**NOAA TR NOS NGS 67**

133 pages

# A two-track approach to coordinates

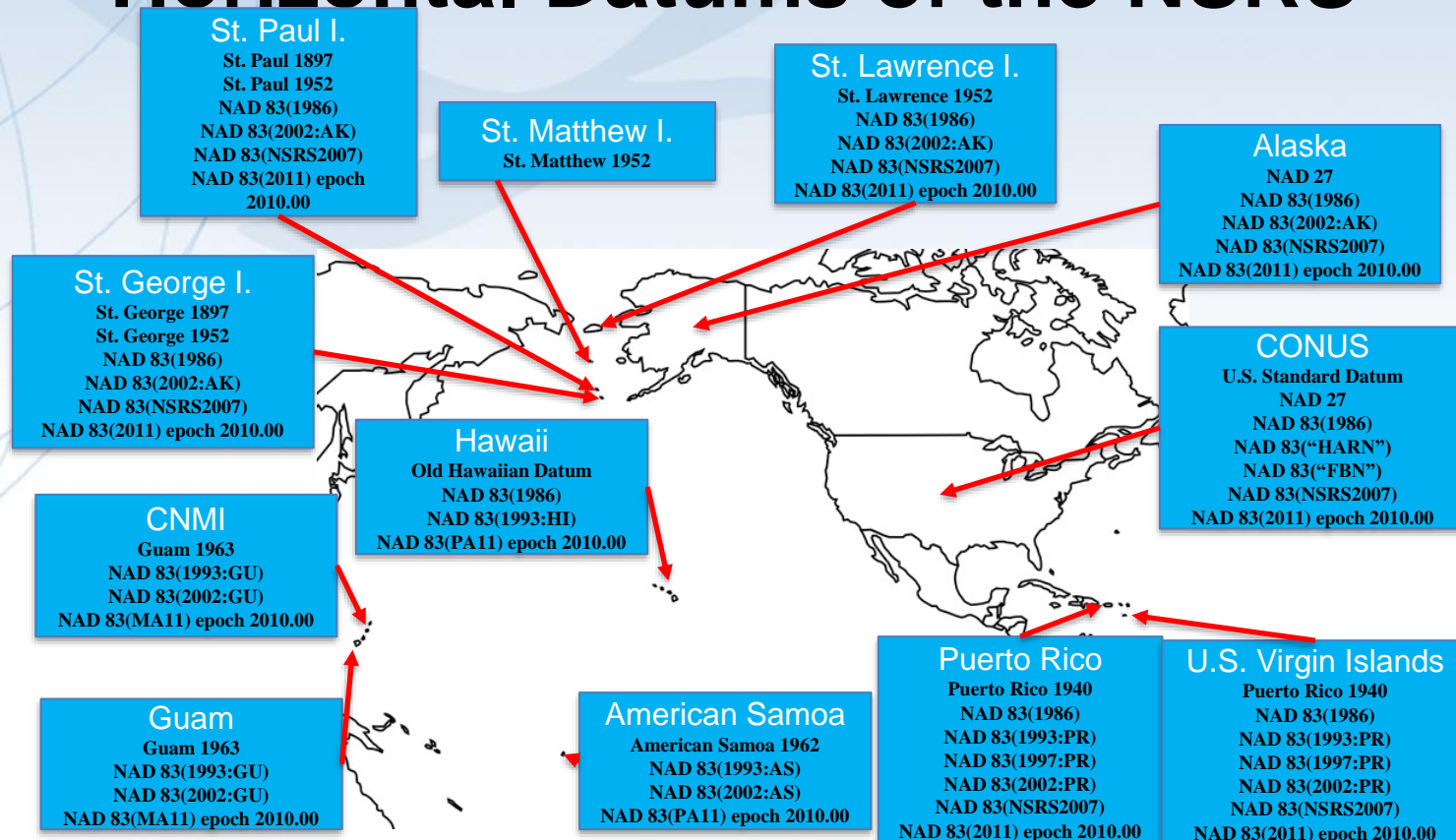
## Reference Epoch Coordinates

- An estimated “snapshot” of entire network
- Every 5 or 10 years
- Similar to NAD 83(2011) epoch 2010.00

## Survey Epoch Coordinates

- Time-dependent!
- Reflects coordinates at time of observation
- Multiple SECs can show changes over time

# Horizontal Datums of the NSRS



# Replacing the NAD 83s

The Old	The New
NAD 83 (2011)	NATRF2022 - The North American Terrestrial Reference Frame of 2022
NAD 83 (2011)	CATRF2022 - The Caribbean Terrestrial Reference Frame of 2022
NAD 83 (PA11)	PATRF2022 - The Pacific Terrestrial Reference Frame of 2022
NAD 83 (MA11)	MATRF2022 - The Mariana Terrestrial Reference Frame of 2022

# Developing previous horizontal datums

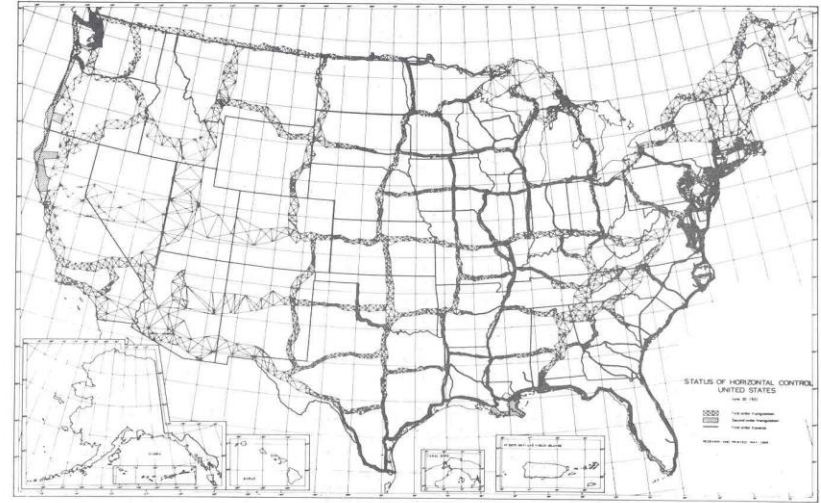
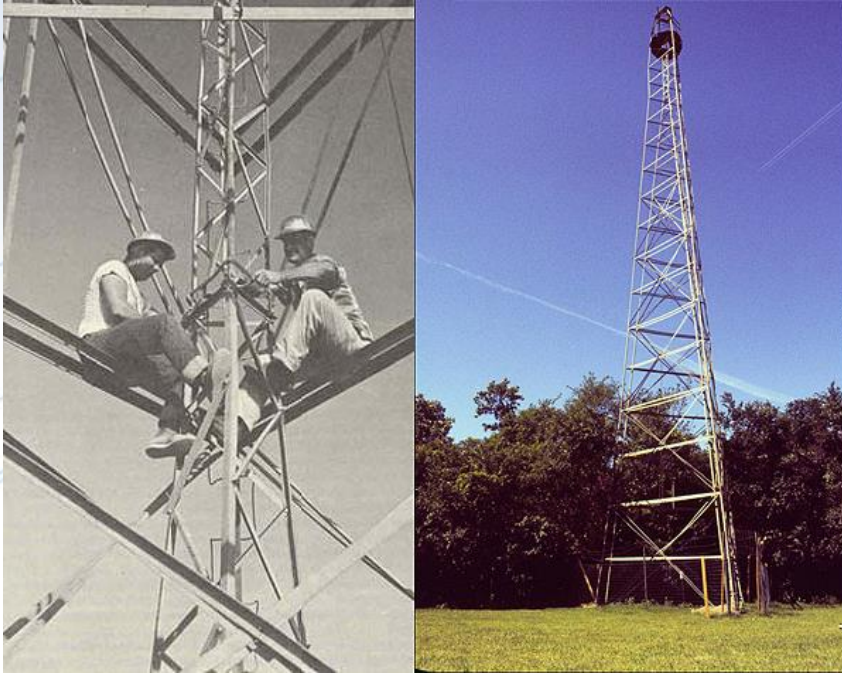
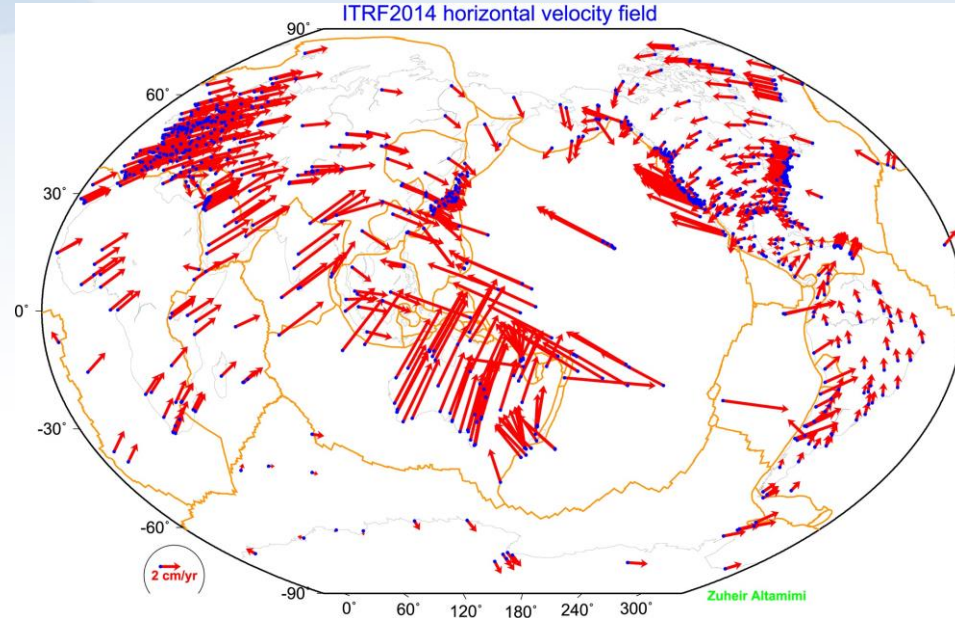


Figure 3  
Horizontal Control Network of the United States June 1931



# The IGS Reference Frame

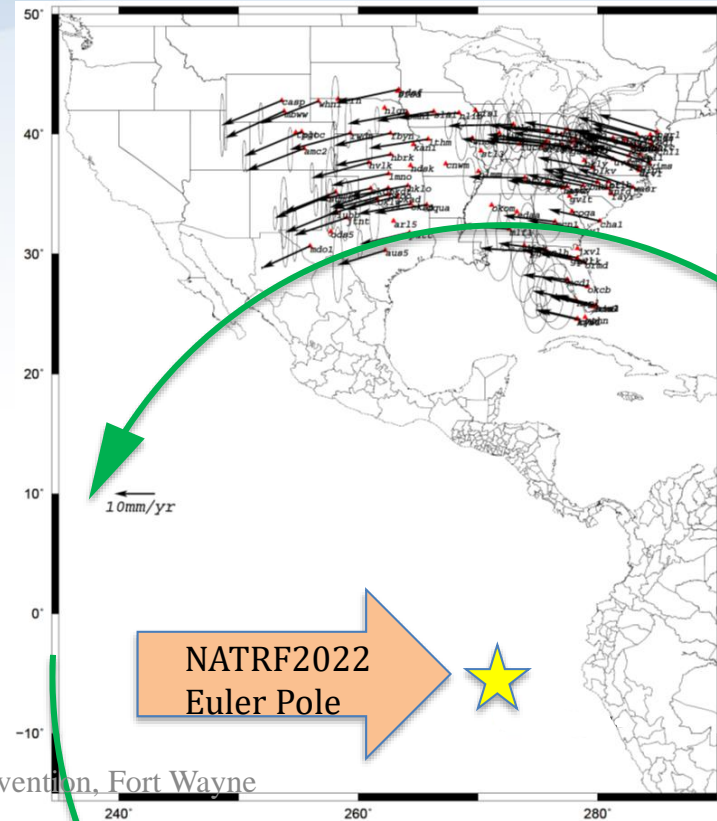
- The ITRF is defined by reference epoch coordinates AND velocities at stations
- The ITRF velocity field very closely resembles absolute plate motion
- The ITRF and IGS frames are both no-net-rotation frames – the sum of the angular velocities is constrained to be zero
- The Modernized (2022) NSRS Reference Frames will tie to ITRF2020



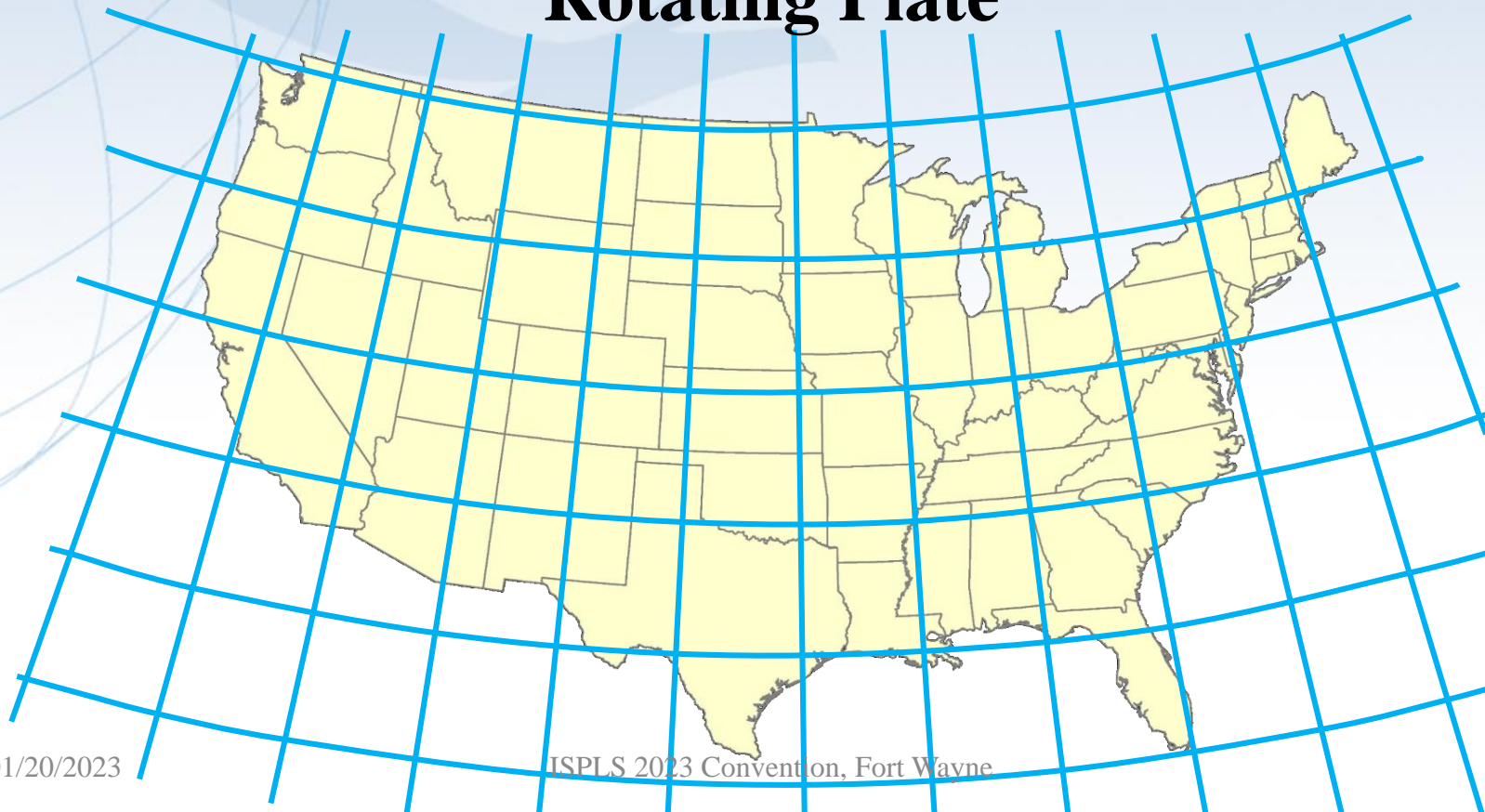
Altamimi et al., 2016, JGR

# Euler Poles and “Plate-Fixed”

- In the ITRF, many tectonic plates have a *dominant* motion: **rotation**
- **Euler Pole** - point about which a plate rotates (yellow star)
- Euler Pole Parameters (**EPP**) define this rotation
- Residual motion is characterized in an Intra-Frame Deformation Model (**IFDM**)

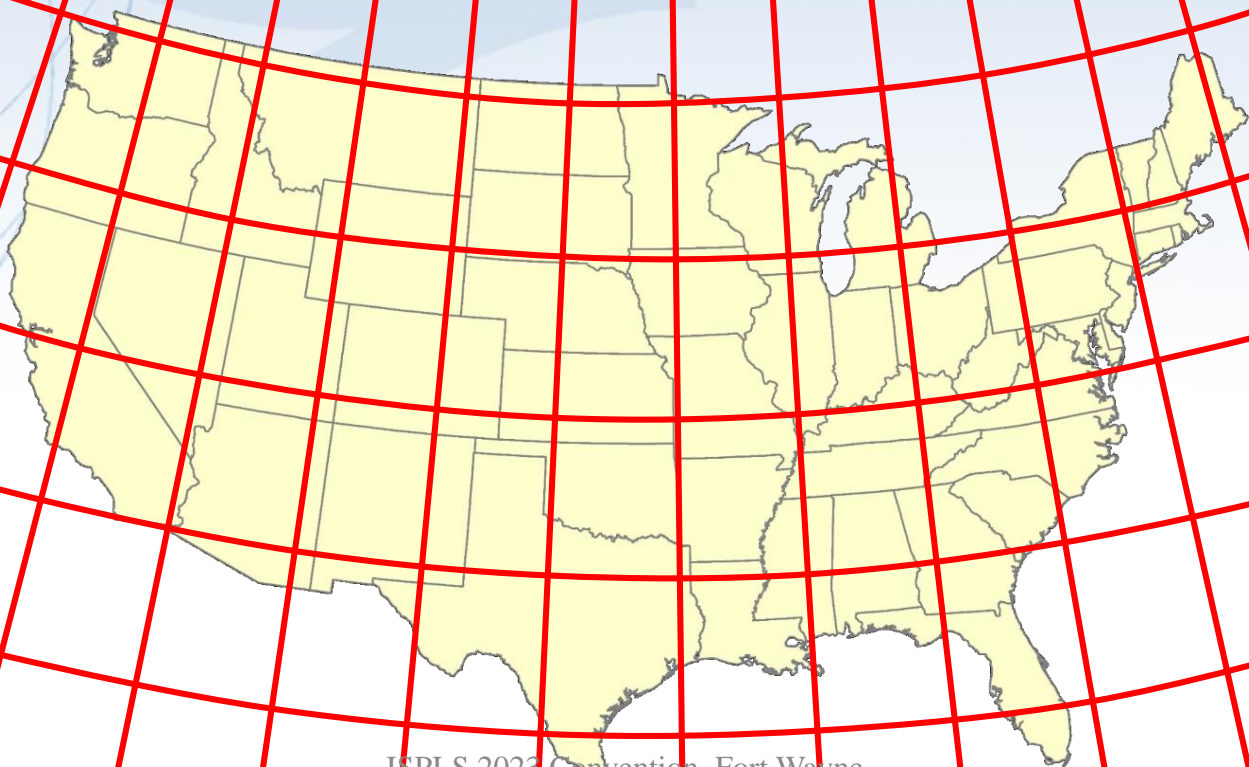


# ITRF2020: Constant Frame, Rotating Plate



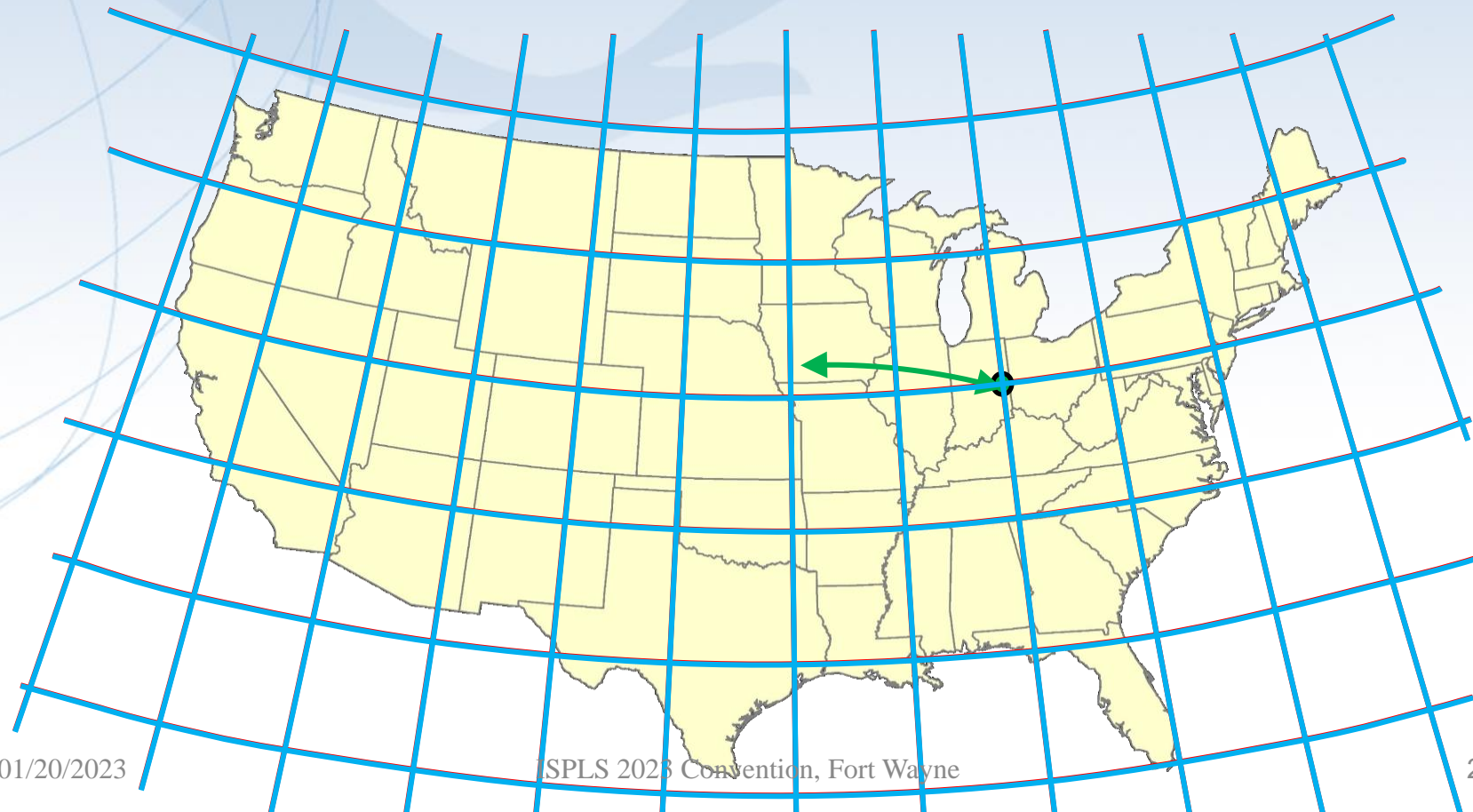
# **NATRF2022: Constant Frame, Rotating Plate**

## **“Plate-Fixed”**



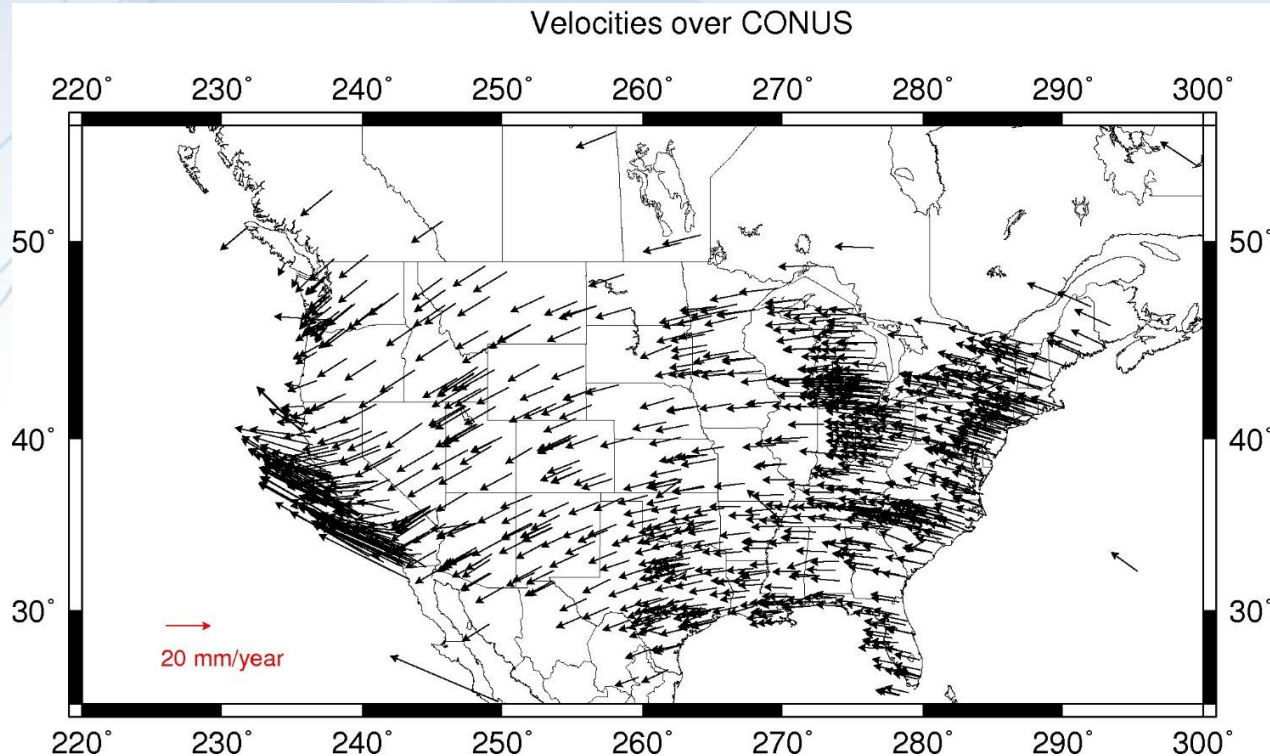


# ITRF2020 or NATRF2022

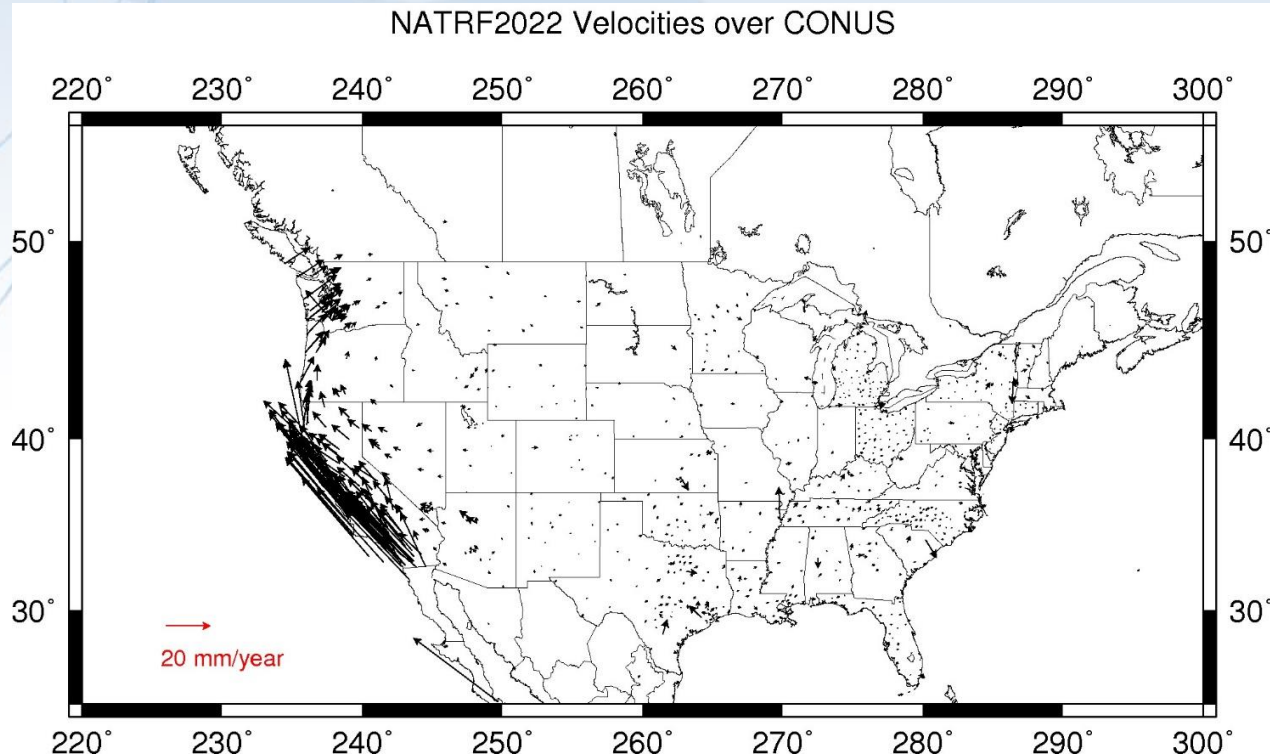




# Residual Velocities – ITRF2020/CONUS

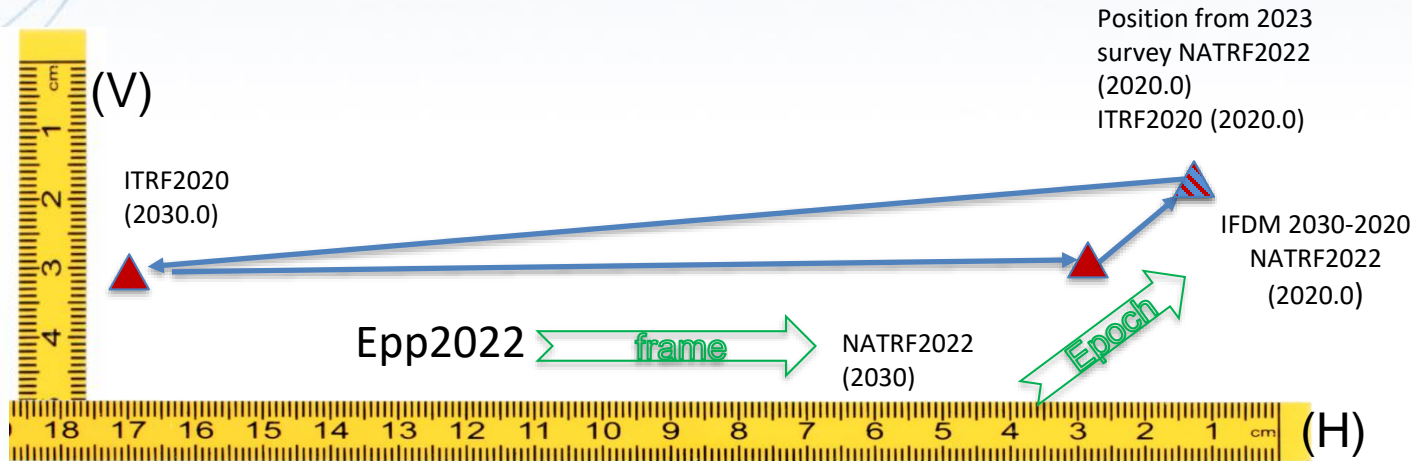


# Residual Velocities – NATRF2022/CONUS

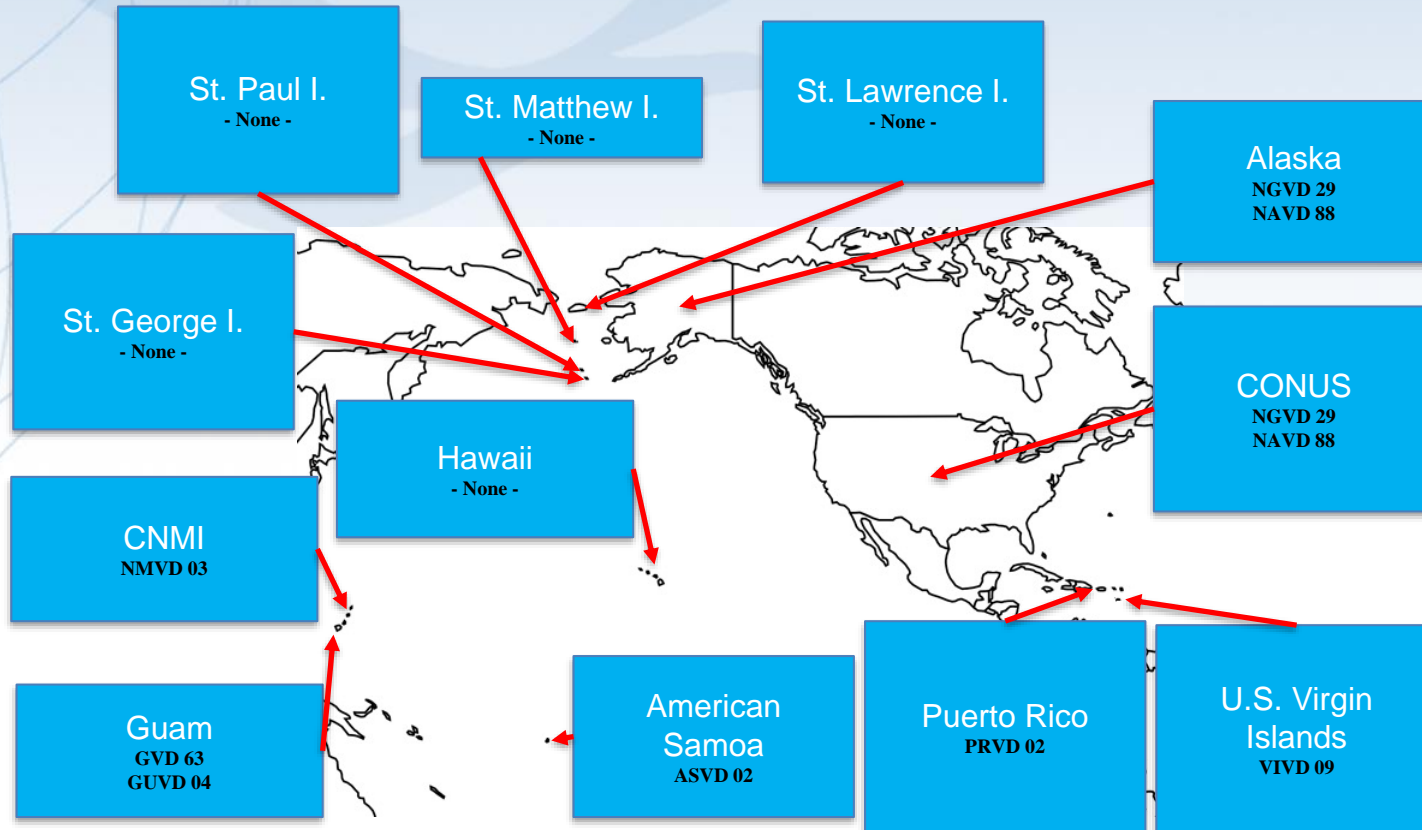


# Coordinates, Frames, Epochs, EPP2022 and IFDM2022

1. A survey done Jan 1, 2023 and reported at epoch 2020.0
2. New Survey (same point) done Jan 1, 2030
3. Position of point in NATRF2022(2030)
4. Position of point in NATRF2022(2020)
5. If IFDM = 0, then NATRF2022 (2030) = NATRF2022 (2020)



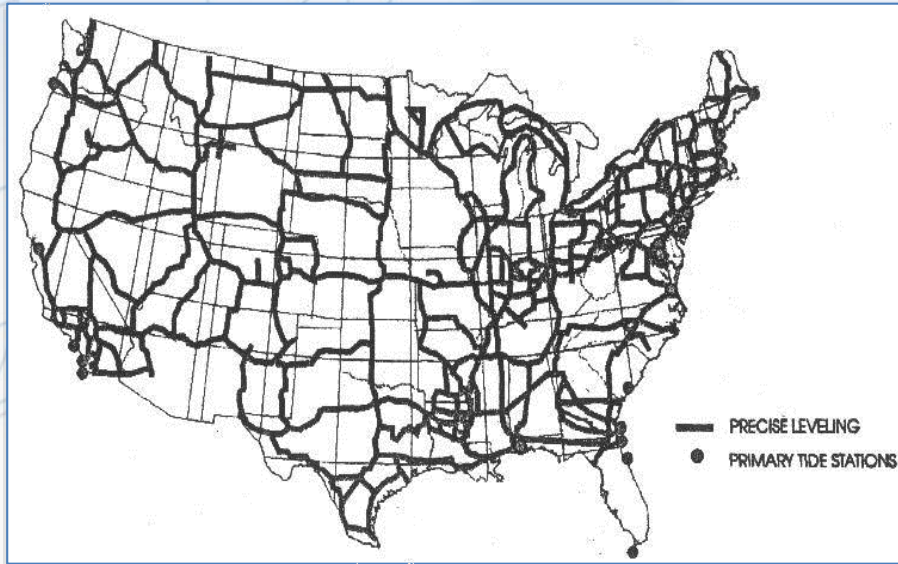
# Vertical Datums of the NSRS



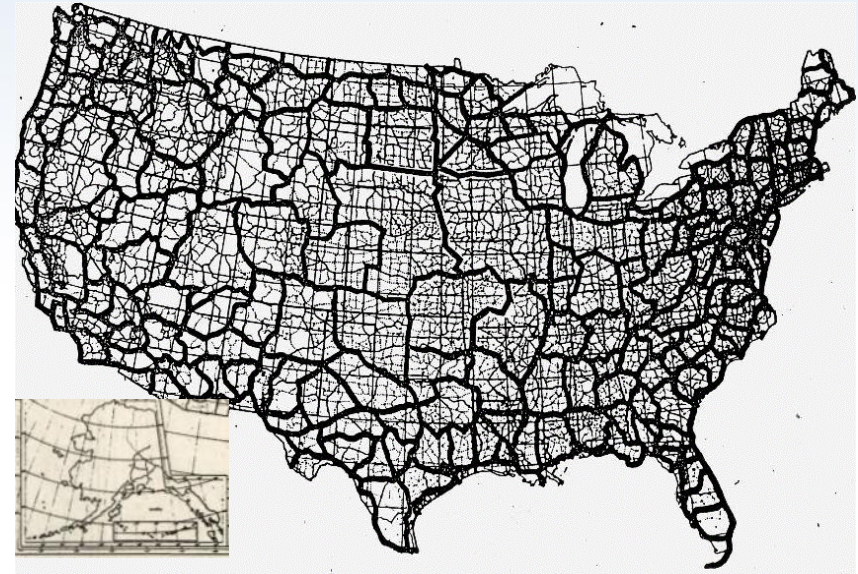


# Developing the previous vertical datums

## NGVD 29



## NAVD 88





# Leveling



# Replacing NAVD 88

Orthometric  
Heights

The Old:

NAVD 88

PRVD 02

VIVD09

Normal  
Orthometric  
Heights

ASVD02

NMVD03

GUVD04

Dynamic  
Heights

IGLD 85

Gravity

IGSN71

Geoid  
Undulations

GEOID18

Deflections of  
the Vertical

DEFLEC18

The New:

The North American-Pacific **Geopotential Datum** of 2022 (NAPGD2022)

Will include:

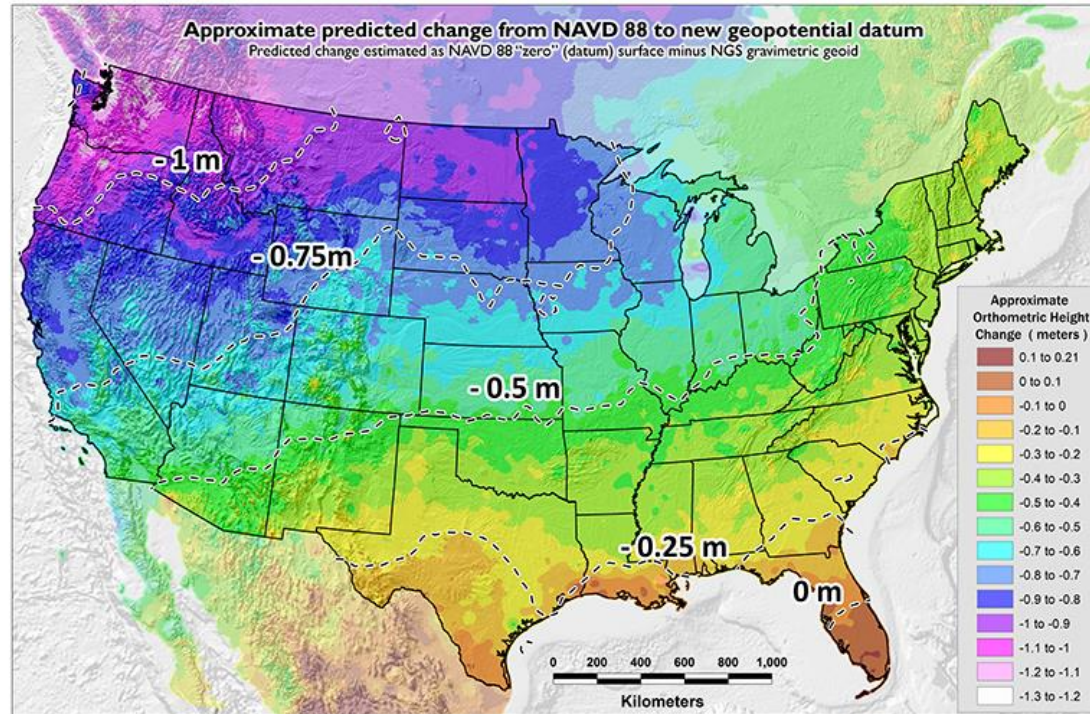
- GEOID2022
- DEFLEC2022
- GRAV2022
- DEM2022
- More

**A HUGE component of this effort is GRAV-D:**

**Gravity for the Redefinition of the American Vertical Datum**

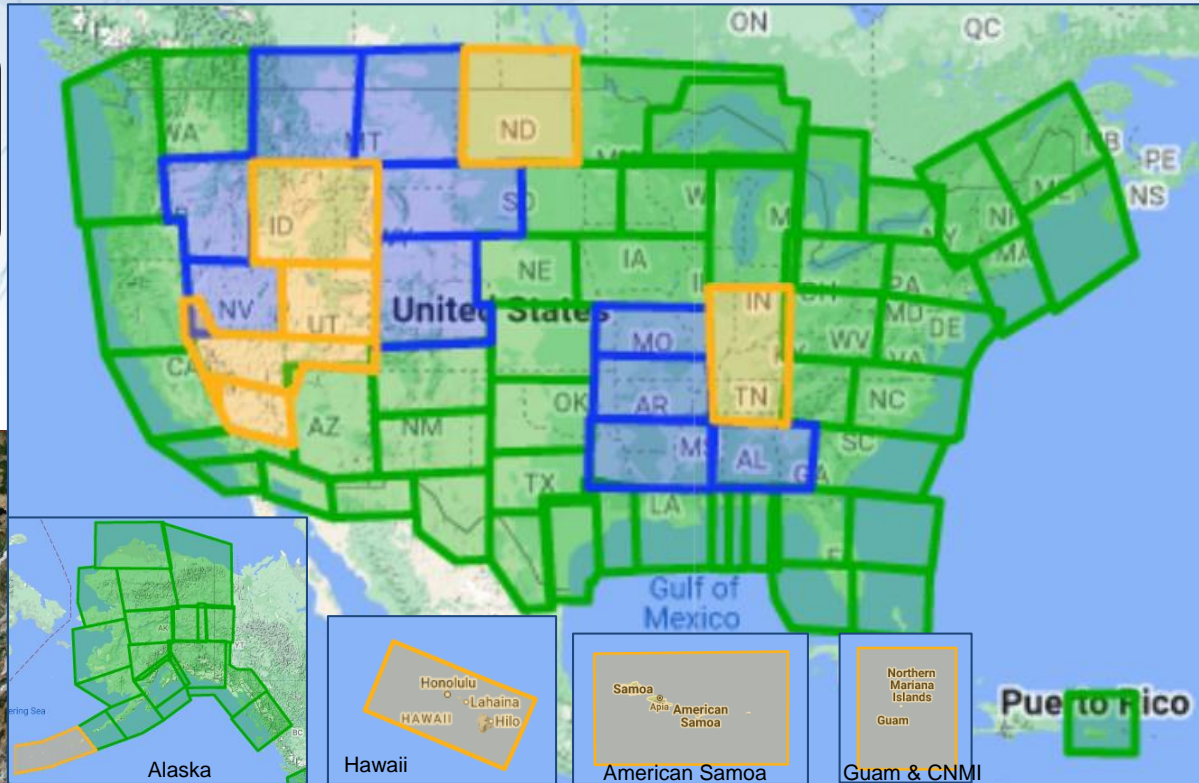


# NAVD 88 (epoch ?) to NAPGD2022 Epoch 2020.00 (estimate)





# Gravity for the Redefinition of the American Vertical Datum (GRAV-D)



- 10 km data lines
- 70 km cross lines
- 20,000 ft altitude
- 230 kt flight speed

<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: lightgray; border: 1px solid black;"></span>	Planned
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: orange; border: 1px solid black;"></span>	Partially Collected
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: lightblue; border: 1px solid black;"></span>	Processing
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: green; border: 1px solid black;"></span>	Released
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; border: 1px dashed black;"></span>	Target Area

Over 96% complete

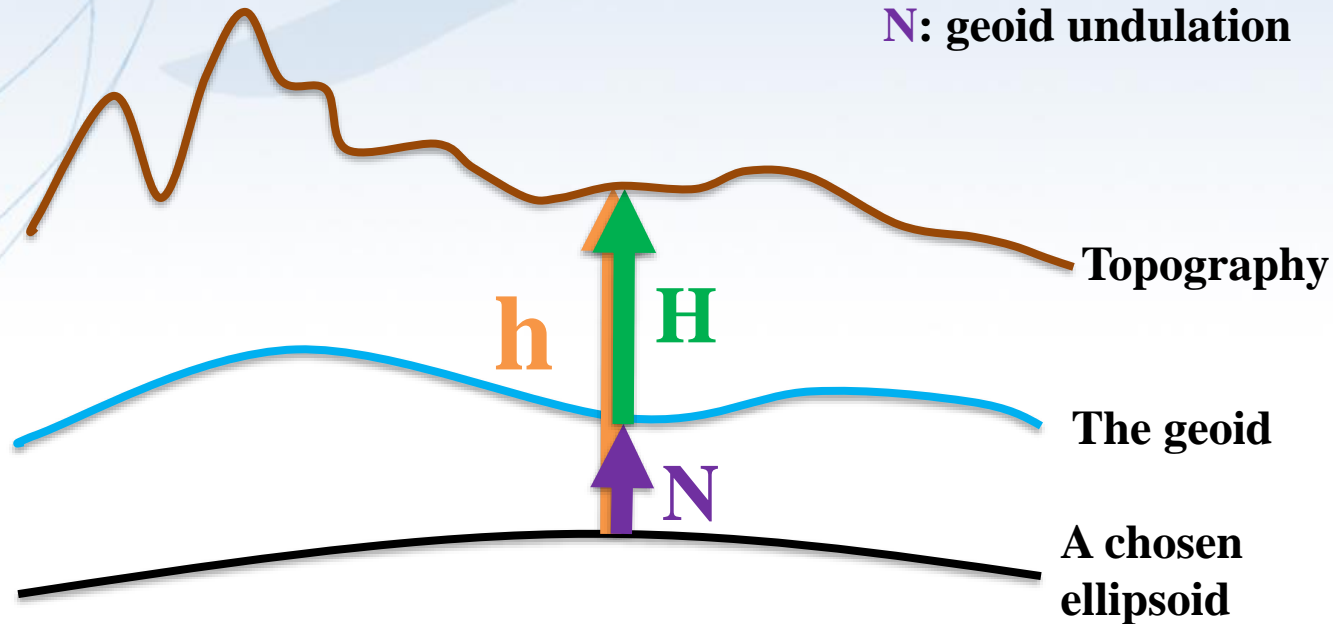
# The Geoid, and Heights

$$h = H + N$$

**h**: ellipsoidal height

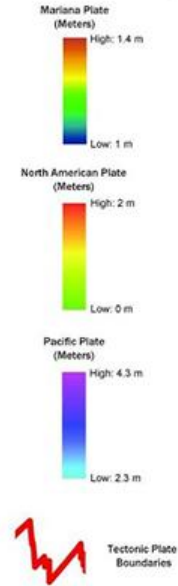
**H**: orthometric height

**N**: geoid undulation

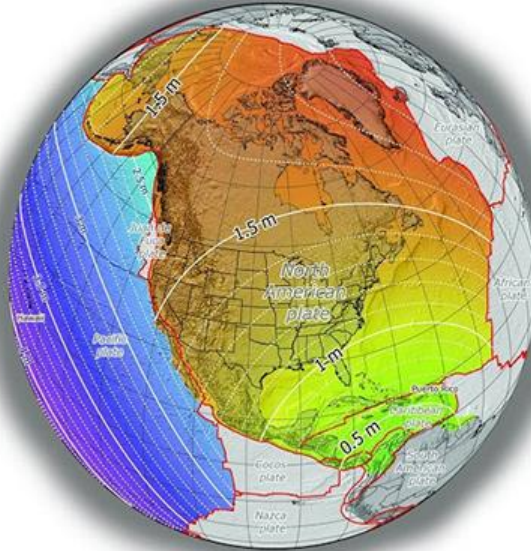


# Modernized NSRS: Shift and Drift

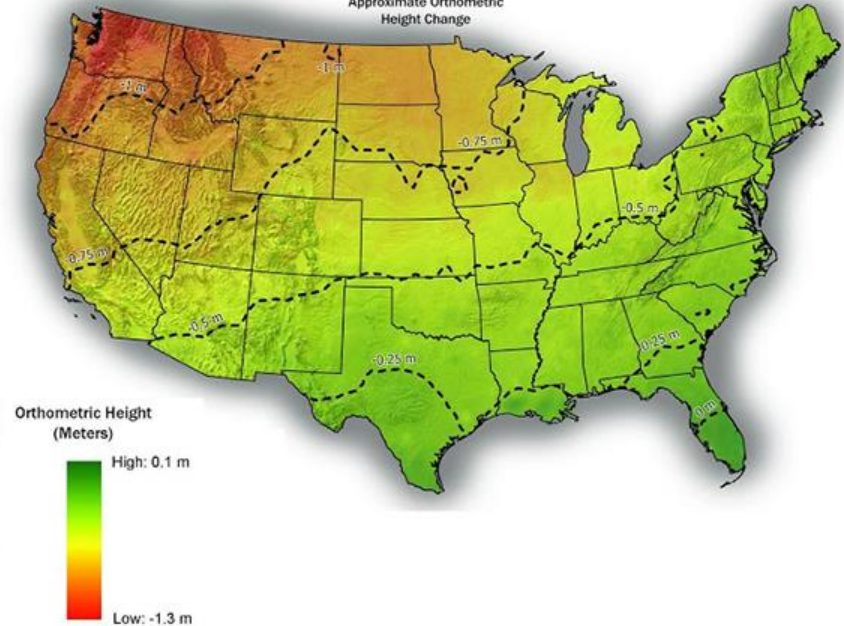
Approximate Horizontal Change



Approximate Horizontal Change North American Plate



Approximate Orthometric Height Change



# NEW TYPES OF COORDINATES





## NOAA Technical Report NOS NGS 67

### Blueprint for the Modernized NSRS, Part 3: Working in the Modernized NSRS

April 2019  
Revised February 2021  
Silver Spring, MD



**Coordinate:** One of a set of  $N$  numbers designating the location of a point in  $N$ -dimensional space. Specific to the modernized NSRS, five types of coordinates will be supported.

# New Types of Coordinates

NGS anticipates that 5 types of coordinates will be used in the NSRS. They are:

Reported  
OPUS  
Reference Epoch  
Survey Epoch  
Active

# “Part of the NSRS”

- Only coordinates computed by NGS and stored in the NSRS database are “*part of the NSRS*”
  - *Reference Epoch*
  - *Survey Epoch*
  - *Active*
- OPUS Coordinates can be “*tied to the NSRS*”

# Passive Control

- Any geodetic control point that is not active control. Common examples include a metal disk set in concrete or stone, or a stainless steel rod driven into the ground.





# Active Control

- A geodetic control point at a station occupied by equipment intended for and capable of continuously collecting geodetic quality data for multiple years and with active defined by or adopted by NGS.
- CORS



# Shift and Drift

When transitioning off of NAD 83, your coordinates will experience shift and drift

- Shift: A one-time jump somewhere in the 0 to 4 meter range (latitude, longitude, ellipsoid height)
- Drift: Coordinates are now time-dependent. The shift will take you to 2020.00. Working at any other epoch means you must account for the drift (velocity, as well as any other motions over time) of your coordinates

# New Types of Coordinates

- **Reported**
  - *“Coordinates directly reported to NGS without the data necessary for NGS to replicate or evaluate them. These coordinates are neither ‘part of the NSRS’ nor ‘tied to the NSRS.’”*
    - Scaled from a map
    - Transformed using NCAT or VDatum
    - Smartphone
    - Reported directly from an RTK rover without data files



# Reported Coordinates





# Buyer Beware!

- **Reported** coordinates might be very wrong!
  - Reported in NAD 27 or NAD 83 or WGS 84
    - Systematic Error: 2–100 meters
  - Scaled off of a USGS topographic map
    - Random Error:  $\pm 600$  meters
  - Smartphone
    - Random Error:  $\pm 10$ –50 meters
- NGS **will show you** reported coordinates
  - But their function is to get you “in the neighborhood” of a mark, not to use as geodetic control!

# New Types of Coordinates

- **OPUS**

- *“Coordinates computed by OPUS that have not been evaluated by anyone at NGS. As these coordinates are not computed by NGS they are not considered “part of the NSRS.” However, if NGS-provided OPUS recommendations are followed, they may be ‘tied to the NSRS.’”*
  - User-computed values, such as they might get today from either OPUS-S or OPUS Projects
  - “OPUS” coordinates are the **only** coordinates a user will get directly from OPUS
  - NGS will *not* evaluate your OPUS coordinates!

# New Types of Coordinates

- **OPUS** coordinates may also come with the label “**tied to the NSRS**”
  - **Only** if a user restricts their computations to OPUS-recommended constraints
  - Users who deviate from OPUS-recommended constraints can still perform computations and will get OPUS coordinates, but they will not be “tied to the NSRS”, nor have any NSRS label at all.
  - In neither case will OPUS coordinates be considered “**part of the NSRS**” however.

Survey  
data

OPUS

data  
processing

Did you follow  
OPUS  
recommendations?

yes

no

OPUS Coordinates that  
are  
"tied to the NSRS"

OPUS Coordinates that are  
"not tied to the NSRS"

If you choose to deviate from the  
OPUS recommendations:

1. OPUS will warn you when you do so
2. You will receive an explanation why your coordinates are not tied to the NSRS

Do you want to "share" your  
results with the world?

yes

no

Unique, public  
URL for this  
survey which you  
can share with  
anyone

Your results are  
shown to you on  
screen or via email  
only



# New Types of Coordinates

## Reference epoch coordinates (RECs)

- *“Coordinates estimated by NGS for one of the official reference epochs. As these coordinates are computed by NGS they are considered ‘part of the NSRS’”*
- These will be computed by NGS every 5 or 10 years
  - On a schedule 2–3 years past the reference epoch

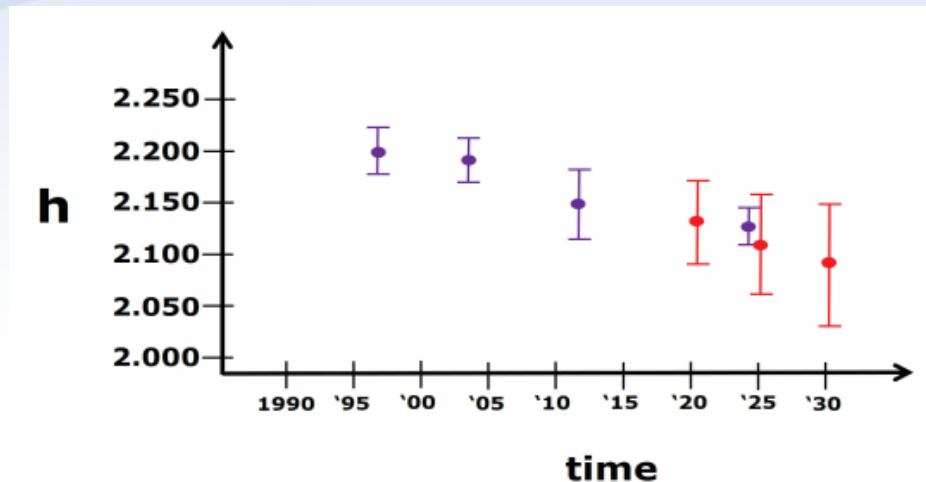
# New Types of Coordinates

## Survey epoch coordinates (SECs)

- *“Coordinates computed by NGS for one survey epoch. As these coordinates are computed by NGS they are considered ‘part of the NSRS.’”*
  - These represent the best estimates NGS has of the time-dependent coordinates at any mark
  - Adjusting multiple surveys in timespans called “adjustment windows”, to a single epoch within that window.
    - Initial plan: 4 weeks for GNSS; 1 year for leveling

# More on SECs and RECs

- At passive control
- SECs: adjusted to a midpoint epoch near the survey
  - (4 weeks for GNSS; 1 year for leveling)
- RECs: adjusted to a ref. epoch (2020.00, etc.)
- REC adjustments will include Some **age-limited** span of data
  - If that age-limit were 10 years prior and 2 years post R.E., Then 2020.00 RECs come from data spanning 2010.00 to 2021.99999



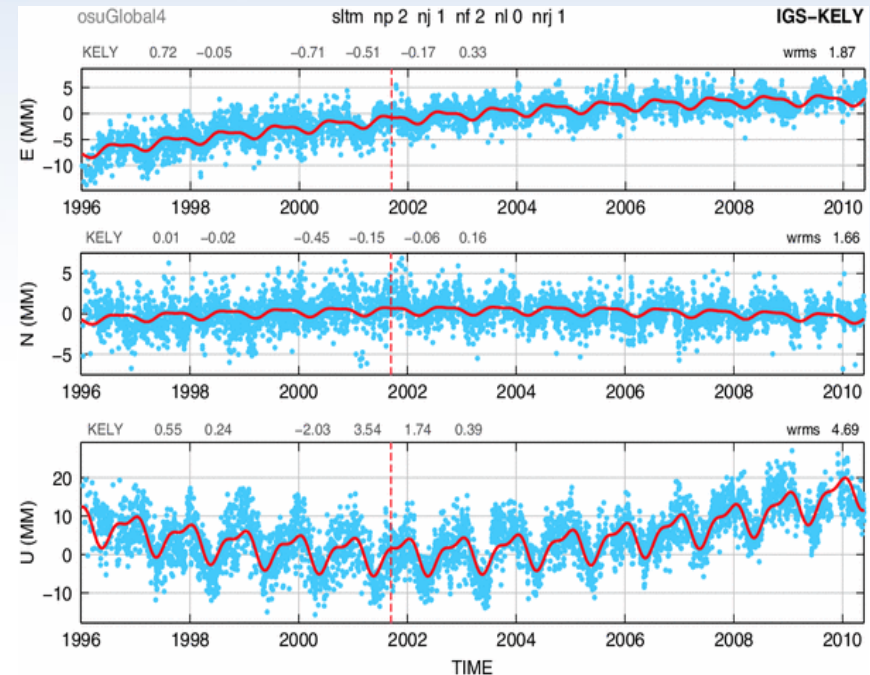
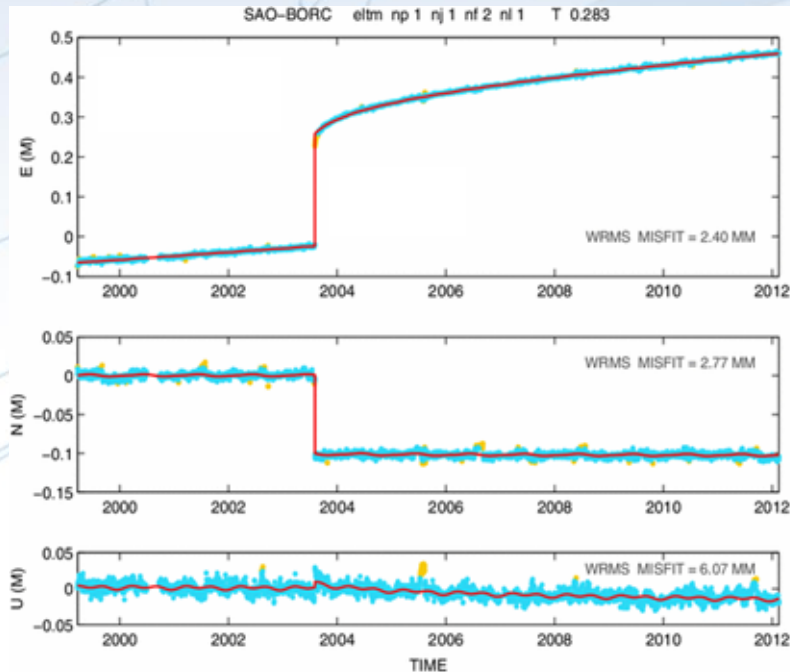
# New Types of Coordinates

## Active coordinates (ACs)

- Coordinate functions in time, generated by NGS, and not associated with a specific epoch. As these coordinates are computed by NGS (or adopted by NGS) they are considered “part of the NSRS.”
- Which will be generated by a “fit” to regularly computed coordinates

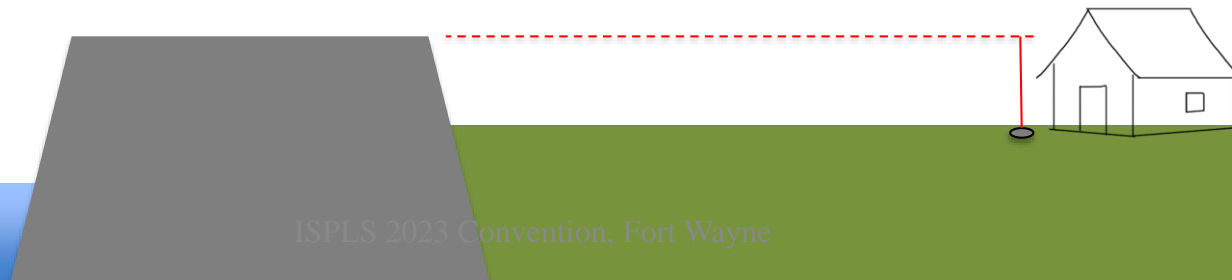


# Examples of How Non-Linear CORS Coordinate Functions Might Look



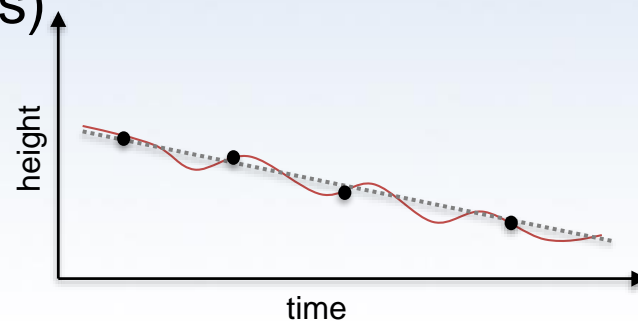
# Published Coordinates

- **RECs** 'stable' at project scales (5-10 years)



# Published Coordinates

- **RECs** 'stable' at project scales (5-10 years)
- **SECs** reflective of narrow window in time
- **ACs** or ***Coordinate Function*** at CORS



# Coordinates

- Five types:
  - **Active:** Continuous functions at a CORS
  - **Survey Epoch:** “Time dependent coordinates”
  - **Reference Epoch:** “Estimated at 2020, 2025, 2030, ...”
  - **OPUS:** Computed by you, and as accurate or inaccurate as the choices you make
    - *Tied to the NSRS if you follow OPUS recommendations*
  - **Reported:** Good for finding a point somewhere on Earth.
    - *Not to be used as geodetic control*



# NGS TOOLS AVAILABLE



## OPUS Projects

National Geodetic Survey

NGS Home About NGS Data & Imagery Tools Surveys Science & Education Search



OPUS Projects gives users web-based access to simple management and processing tools for projects involving multiple sites and multiple occupations. The advantages of OPUS Projects are:

- Data uploading through OPUS.
- Customizable data processing via the PAGES software suite.
- Visualization and management aids.

What is OPUS projects?

- One page class description.
- What is OPUS Projects.
- User Manual.
- Manager training videos.

### OPUS menu

upload  
about OPUS

projects  
shared solutions

support / feedback

The NOAA CORS Network (NCN) and OPUS reference system in September 2019. While the IGS08 reference system is still offered through the BETA OPUS tools, IGS08 is discontinued in early 2020. [more](#)

The IGS08 reference system will be supported through the end of 2019 here, in **BETA OPUS** and in **BETA OPUS-Projects**. The **OPUS team** can copy your project to **BETA OPUS-Projects** on request; however, OPUS support for the IGS08 reference system will end. NGS strongly encourages you to complete existing projects or convert them to the ITRF2014 reference system by the end of the year. Until that time, a one-time option to convert an existing IGS08 project to the ITRF2014 will be offered the first time the project is accessed.

Create a new project.

Create **RESTRICTED** to trained project managers who have completed OPUS Projects training, you create a new project. All others, see the [Project Tracking web site](#) to request a required project.

Configure, edit, and process individual network sessions.

Session **Project Identifier:**  
Session Key:  
Your Email:  
Privacy Act Statement

Manage, edit, process, and publish the project.

Manage **Project Identifier:**  
Manager Key

01/20/2023

for the Future

www.ngs.noaa.gov

geodesy.noaa.gov

beta.ngs.noaa.gov



## BETA

This is a BETA Release Site

## OPUS Projects

National Geodetic Survey

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- Manager training videos.

If you're interested in submitting your project's request to the NGS Integrated Database (IDB) and have not done so, please visit the [Project Tracking web site](#) to request a required project.

### OPUS menu

upload  
about OPUS

projects  
shared solutions

support / feedback

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Session **Project Identifier:**  
Session Key:  
Your Email:  
Privacy Act Statement

Manage, edit, process, and publish the project.

Manage **Project Identifier:**  
Manager Key



## DEV

Internal Development Area

## OPUS Projects

National Geodetic Survey

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OPUS Projects gives users web-based access to simple management and processing tools for projects involving multiple sites and multiple occupations. The advantages of OPUS Projects are:

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### OPUS menu

upload  
about OPUS

projects  
shared solutions

support / feedback

CORS and OPUS converted to the ITRF2014 reference system in September 2019. From that point forward, all new projects will be created in the ITRF2014 reference system. [more](#)

The IGS08 reference system will be supported through the end of 2019 here, in **BETA OPUS** and in **BETA OPUS-Projects**. The **OPUS team** can copy your project to **BETA OPUS-Projects** on request; however, OPUS support for the IGS08 reference system will end. NGS strongly encourages you to complete existing projects or convert them to the ITRF2014 reference system by the end of the year. Until that time, a one-time option to convert an existing IGS08 project to the ITRF2014 will be offered the first time the project is accessed.

ISPLS 2023 Convention, Fort Wayne

# NGS Products and Services

- Not just OPUS
- All exist in three environments:
  - **Development** (DEV) - internal testing and development
    - same as when you hear a company talk about an “Alpha” product
  - **Beta** - continued internal testing, open for public testing
    - key features have already been vetted/tested
  - **Production** - final product, open to public use
    - this is what you see first when navigating our website

# NGS Coordinate Conversion and Transformation Tool (NCAT)

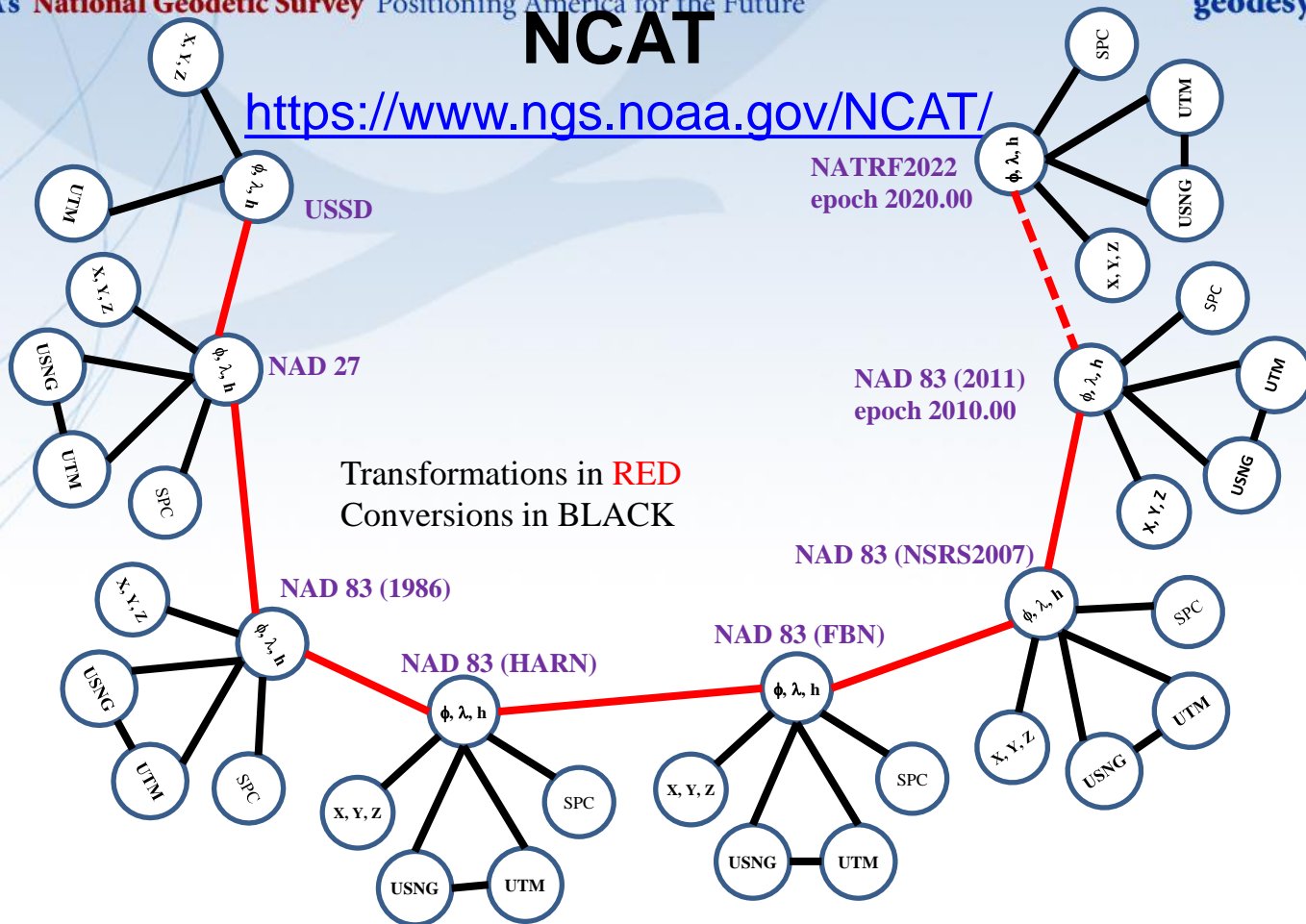
- Converts between types of coordinates
- Transforms between datums
- Works with vertical and horizontal datums in the NSRS

The screenshot shows the NGS Coordinate Conversion and Transformation Tool (NCAT) web interface. The header includes the NOAA logo and the text "NGS Coordinate Conversion and Transformation Tool (NCAT)" and "National Geodetic Survey". The navigation bar contains links: "NGS Home", "About NGS", "Data & Imagery", "Tools", "Surveys", "Science & Education", and a search bar. The main content area has tabs for "Single Point Conversion", "Multipoint Conversion", "Web services", "Downloads", "Tutorial & FAQs", and "About NCAT". The "Single Point Conversion" tab is active, showing options to "Convert/Transform from:" (Horizontal, Horizontal+height, XYZ) and "Select the type of horizontal coordinate:" (Geodetic lat-long, SPC, UTM, USNG). A map of Wisconsin is displayed with a location marker near Lake Superior. Input fields for "Lat" and "Lon" are provided in decimal, degrees-minutes-seconds, and drag map marker formats. Reference frame dropdowns for "Input reference frame" and "Output reference frame" are set to "NAD83(2011)". A "Submit" button is at the bottom. A blue bar at the bottom indicates "Converted Coordinate" and "Reference Frame:".



# NCAT

<https://www.ngs.noaa.gov/NCAT/>



# OPUS-PROJECTS UPDATES

# What is OPUS?

- OPUS-S (static processing, 2-48 hours)
- OPUS-RS (rapid-static, 15 minutes – 2 hours)
- Sharing database of solutions
- OPUS Projects
  - campaign style survey-processing, adjustments, publication

OPUS: Online Positioning User Service  
National Geodetic Survey

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[!] orbits update to ITRF2020 on 11/27

Starting 11/27/2022, the IGS will begin providing all orbit products in the newly released ITRF2020 (IGS20) reference frame. We expect no appreciable impact to users of OPUS due to this change.

OPUS will continue to provide users with ITRF2014 coordinates until other NGS products can be updated to be consistent with the new frame. Users will be notified in advance when OPUS does switch to providing ITRF2020 coordinates.

**Upload your data file.**  
Solve your GPS position & tie it to the National Spatial Reference System.  
**What is OPUS?** **FAQs**

Choose File No file chosen  
\* data file of dual-frequency GPS observations. **sample**

NONE

**antenna** - choosing wrong may degrade your accuracy.

0.000 meters above your mark.  
**antenna height** of your antenna's reference point.

\* email address - your solution will be sent here. **Privacy Act Statement**

Options to **customize** your solution.

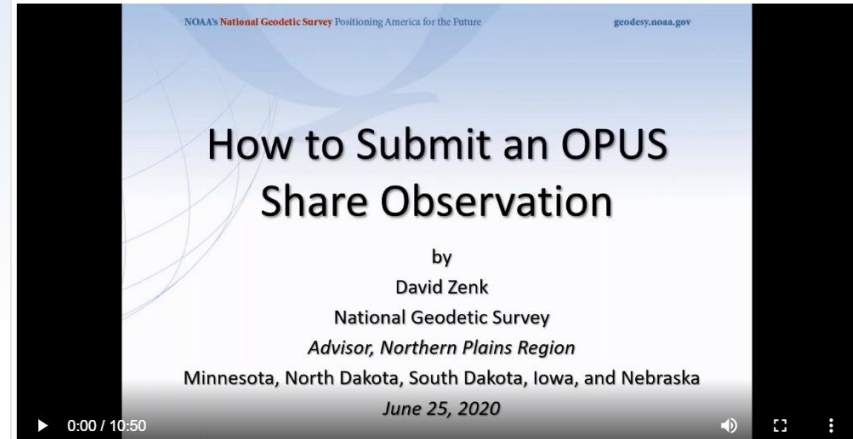
Upload to Rapid-Static Upload to Static

# Share GPS observations through OPUS

- Upload 4+hour GPS observation file
- Provide antenna type, antenna height, and email address
- Click “Options” & Select “Yes, Share”
- Identify the Mark by PID
- Write a “To Reach” description
- Attach 2 photos: Close up & Horizon
- Respond to confirmation email

## How to Submit an OPUS Share Observation Tutorial

The purpose of this tutorial is to explain the steps needed to submit an OPUS Share observation in the context of supporting the GPS on Bench Marks campaign.



[geodesy.noaa.gov/corbin/class\\_description/opus-share-tutorial/](https://geodesy.noaa.gov/corbin/class_description/opus-share-tutorial/)



# Why use OPUS-Projects?

- Supports both static GPS and RTK GNSS surveys
- Organizes data for multiple occupations on more than one mark
  - Campaign-style surveys for control
- Performs least squares adjustments of control survey networks
  - Estimate relative accuracy between marks
- Constrains NAVD 88 bench marks – check/establish NAVD 88 heights
- Ensures survey is tied to the NSRS
  - CORS data and published coordinates/heights
  - Official models (HTDP, GEOID18)
- Submits survey to NGS for review, loading in database, and publication on datasheets
  - Establishment of geodetic control
  - NGS will use data for making models (e.g., future transformation model for the new datums)

# OPUS-Project 4.0

- Currently on Production
- What does this version add?
  - Allows you to submit campaign style GPS survey to NGS for inclusion in the IDB (Integrated DataBase)
    - Upload GPS data to OPUS-S
    - Upload photos and mark descriptions ← (must be created using WinDesc)
    - Process simultaneous/overlapping sessions
    - Run network adjustment (using GPSCOM and ADJUST)
    - Click the “Submit” button to send to NGS!

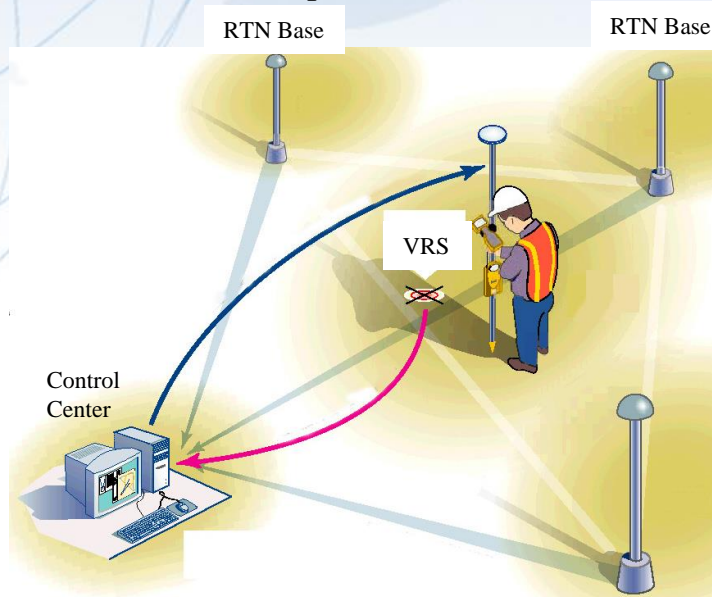
# OPUS-Projects 5

- Available on BETA at: <https://beta.ngs.noaa.gov/OP-bluebook/OpusProjects.shtml>
- Continues to support static GPS baseline processing and network adjustments
- Continues to prepares all files according to FGCS Bluebook for submission to NGS for loading in the NGS Integrated Database and publication on Datasheets
- Supports GVX → uploading of previously processed GNSS vectors
  - Single-base RTK vectors
  - Network RTK vectors
  - Vectors post-processed in other software
- Automatically “weights” uploaded vectors in a network least squares adjustment

# Real-Time Networks

## Virtual Reference Stations (VRS)

- Vector “tails” referenced to virtual base station
- Base station position is variable

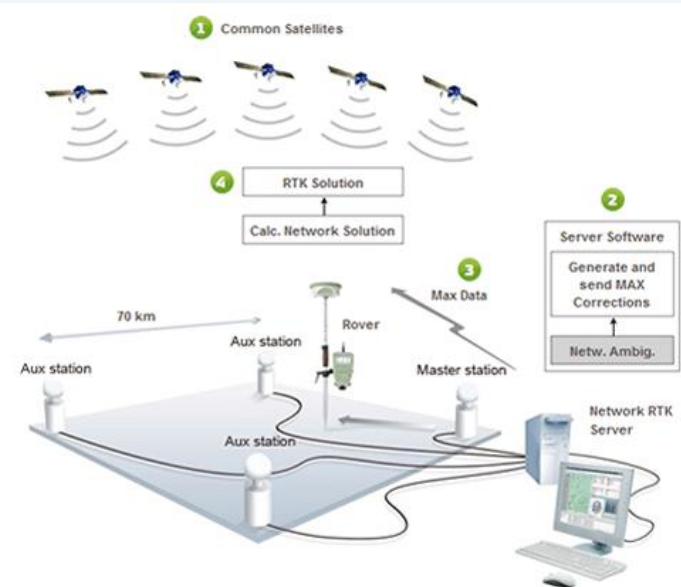


(Landau et al. 2002)

RTN Base

## Master-Auxiliary Concept (MAC)

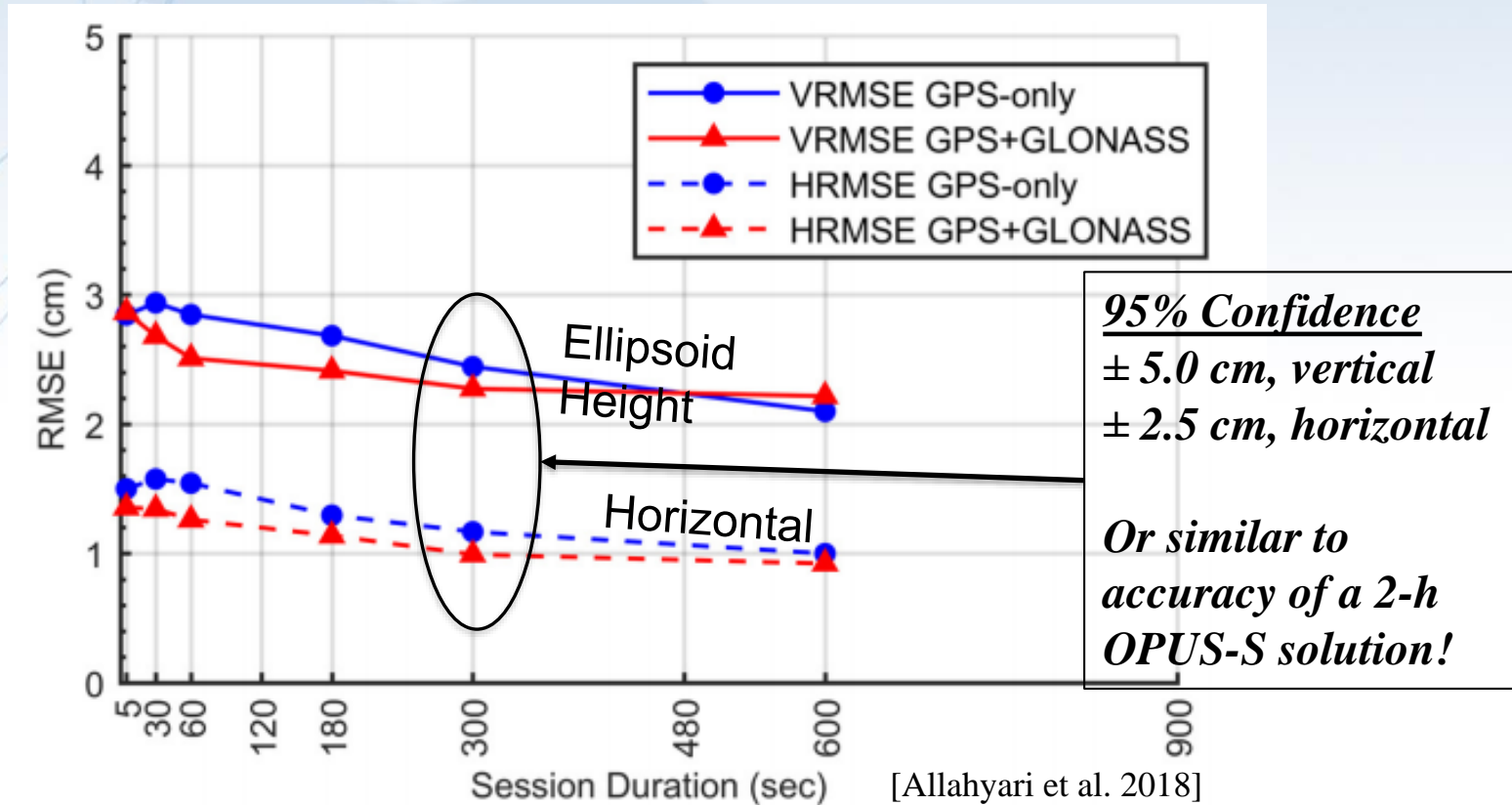
- Vector “tails” connected to physical base station
- Base station position is fixed



(Leica 2005)



# Empirical Evaluation of the Accuracy of RTNs



# GNSS Vector eXchange (GVX)

[Hyperlink to GVX Info Page](#)

- Detailed documentation, Schema, and Example File available
- Any major search engine: “ngs gvx file format”
- Open standard for anyone to use or integrate

## GVX is sort of like... RINEX for RTK/RTN

GVX  
details?

Check out:  
GVX: The GNSS Vector Exchange File Format  
OPUS-Projects

Daniel Gillins, Ira Sellars, Mark Schenewerk and Weibing Wang (USA)

FIG Working Week 2020  
Smart surveys for land and water management  
Amsterdam, the Netherlands, 10–14 May 2020

Positioning America for the Future

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**Data Formats**

GNSS Vector Exchange (GVX)

**GVX: The GNSS Vector Exchange File Format**

**Background**

GVX aims to provide a standard file format for exchanging GNSS vectors derived from varying GNSS survey methods and manufacturer hardware. The file format includes all of the necessary data of a GNSS vector for inclusion in a survey network for least squares adjustment, as well as crucial metadata. The format is meant for any type of GNSS vector, whether it was derived in a real-time kinematic (RTK) survey or from baseline post-processing. One goal for developing GVX is so that vector data can be uploaded to OPUS-Projects. NGS requests feedback on this file format.

NGS Feedback@noaa.gov

Special Edition Webinar

**MARCH**

**29**  
2022

2-3:30 pm  
ET

**OPUS User Forum: Working with Real-Time Kinematic Data in OPUS-Projects 5**

**Presenter:** Dan Gillins, Ph.D., P.L.S., OPUS Team Lead

**Panelists:** Jeff Jalbrzikowski, Appalachian Region Geodetic Advisor, Kevin Jordan, NGS Field Operations Branch

NGS is now providing tools that support the use of real-time kinematic

**MAY**

**20**  
2021

2-3 pm  
ET

**OPUS-Projects for RTK/RTN Vectors**

**Presenter:** Dan Gillins, National Geodetic Survey

NGS is developing OPUS-Projects so that GNSS vectors, including those from real-time kinematic (RTK) surveys, can be uploaded to a survey network for least-squares adjustment and submittal to NGS for publication. This has resulted in developing a standardized GNSS vector exchange format known as GVX.

# GVX $\approx$ RINEX for RTK/RTN data

## RINEX

### Uncorrected Observations

- That's why we post-process them

### Static Observations

- One observation per file

### Proprietary Format $\rightarrow$ Open Standard

- Export RINEX using your COTS software

### Metadata

- Antenna, Rx, HI, Point Name, Start Time, SVs at each epoch

### Based on ASCII Text File Format

- Longtime industry standard
  - Way too many to list!

## GVX

### Corrected/Processed Positions

- *And* the Vectors used to create them

### RTN, RTK, PP Static, even PPK

- Many observations, any mix of above

### Proprietary Format $\rightarrow$ Open Standard

- Export GVX using your COTS software

### Metadata - same as RINEX, *plus*...

- Project Info, Solution Types, PDOP, Mount Points, Correlation Matrices, QC data

### Based on XML File Format

- Longtime industry standard
  - e.g. LandXML, JXL, MAXML, KML/KMZ

# Status of GVX Exporters

*...that we know of.*

## Available Now

- Trimble Business Center (TBC) v5.60 - released Nov 2021
- Topcon MAGNET Software v7.2 - released Nov 2021
- Leica Infinity 4.0.0 - released May 2022



## Developers who have expressed interest to us

- iGage
- Carlson
- Emlid



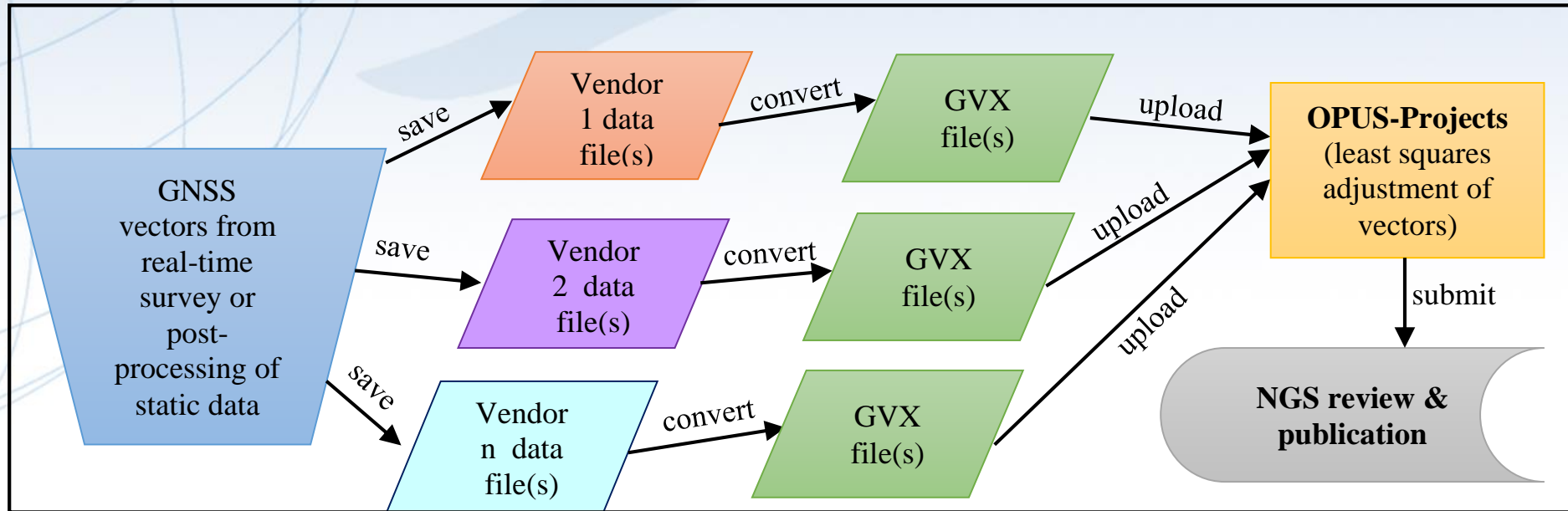
## Available, but not fully functional

- JAVAD J-field - onboard Triumph-LS device





# GVX Flow Chart



# Steps for Submitting a Survey to NGS

1. Submit a [survey project proposal](#) and obtain a project tracking ID
2. Create descriptions for marks in WinDesc. [Tutorial video](#) available
3. Upload all static data via Beta OPUS-S
4. **Upload GVX file(s)**
5. Upload description files from WinDesc
6. Perform session baseline processing
7. Run all 5 network adjustments
8. Upload 3 photos per mark (close-up of mark, horizon photo, and downward from eye-level)
9. Upload observation logs (as a single PDF), and a project report
10. Submit to NGS (*button not enabled on Beta*)

*All but step 4 is currently explained  
in the [OPUS Projects User Guide!](#)*

# Guidance for RTK Surveys

Table 11-2. Recommended Number and Duration of Network RTK Observations on Marks to Meet Certain Vertical (Ellipsoid Height) Accuracy Standards at 95% Confidence in OPUS-Projects.

Vertical standard (cm)	Number of repeat network RTK observations		Observation duration (min)	Minimum epochs used
	GPS-only	GPS + more (GNSS)		
3.0	3	3	5	300
2.5	4	3	5	300
2.0	6	5	5	300

# Equipment Setup

- When using VRS, store points as vectors

Remote Access

☰ Rover options

Survey type  
RTK

Broadcast format  
VRS (CMR)

Antenna

Type  
R10-2 Internal

Antenna height  
2.000m

Measured to  
Bottom of quick release

Part number  
90912-xx

Serial number  
?

Store points as  
Vectors

Elevation mask  
10°

PDOP mask  
6.0

Esc Enter



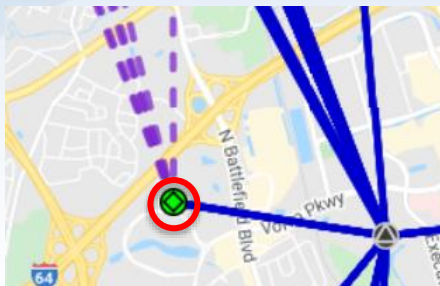
# Three Cases for RTK/RTN Bases

## 1. RTN Base = CORS



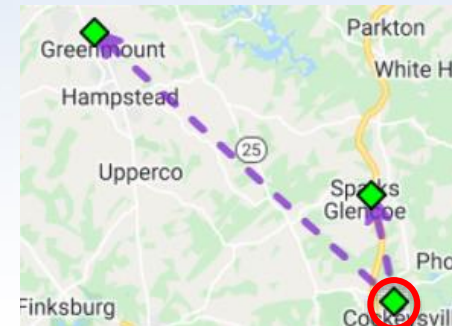
- Automatically attaches GVX vectors to official coordinates for CORS
- Constrain CORSs

## 2. RTK/RTN Base = Not a CORS and new to NGS



- Upload static GPS data logged at the base during the days of the RTK survey
- Perform session baseline processing to connect to CORSs
- Constrain CORSs

## 3. RTK/RTN Base = Not a CORS but has a datasheet



- Could constrain coordinates on datasheet
- Or, upload static data at the RTN base, logged during the days of the RTK survey; perform session baseline processing; constrain CORSs

# Future Directions

- Perform Beta Testing and respond to feedback from users
  - Provide your feedback! [NGS.Feedback@noaa.gov](mailto:NGS.Feedback@noaa.gov)
- Finish OPUS-Projects 5 development and enable “submit” button
- Update OPUS-Projects User Guide materials to include GVX workflow
- Draft new guidelines for surveying with RTK/RTN to replace NGS-58/59

# Brief overview: Re-inventing “Bluebooking” or

## **The Modernized OPUS** **AKA** **“OPUS 6”**

# Future of OPUS

Static GNSS



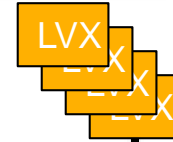
RTK/RTN



Classical



Leveling



Rel. Gravity



# Future of OPUS

- Upload multiple types of data and multiple files into a single survey project
- Process RINEX into a position
- Process RINEX into mark-to-mark vectors
- Process Classical into mark-to-mark angles/distances
- Process Leveling into mark-to-mark ortho. differences
- Process Relative Gravity into mark gravity
- Combine GNSS, RTK/N, Classical in a Geometric Adjustment
- Combine Classical and Leveling in an Orthometric Adjustment
- Adjust Relative Gravity for either gravity or vertical gradients in a Gravimetric Adjustment
- Special settings for “Calibration Base Lines”
- Choose your epoch and frame
- All coordinates returned are “OPUS Coordinates”
- Submit your data to NGS for QA/QC, database loading, and improvement of future passive mark coordinates (RECs and SECs)



# The future of datasheets

# **DATA DELIVERY SYSTEM**

# Data Delivery System

- The **Data Delivery System (DDS)** is a system for querying the new **NSRS database**
  - The most common query will be for a new version of **datasheets**
  - But other queries will be part of the DDS
    - Mark recovery and mark reporting
    - Active control (CORSs)
    - Projects, observations, data, etc.

PROGRAM = datasheet95, VERSION = 8.12.5.14  
 Starting Datasheet Retrieval...  
 1 National Geodetic Survey, Retrieval Date = DECEMBER 14, 2021  
 DE9524 \*\*\*\*\*  
 DE9524 DESIGNATION - SP 0109  
 DE9524 PID - DE9524  
 DE9524 STATE/COUNTY- IL/SANGAMON  
 DE9524 COUNTRY - US  
 DE9524 USGS QUAD - SPRINGFIELD WEST (2018)  
 DE9524  
 DE9524 \*CURRENT SURVEY CONTROL  
 DE9524  

DE9524*	NAD 83(2011)	POSITION-	39 49 41.85939(N)	089 39 02.64176(W)	ADJUSTED
DE9524*	NAD 83(2011)	ELLIP HT-	147.185 (meters)	(06/27/12)	ADJUSTED
DE9524*	NAD 83(2011)	EPOCH	- 2010.00		
DE9524*	NAVD 88	ORTHO HEIGHT	- 179.776 (meters)	589.82 (feet)	ADJUSTED

 DE9524  

DE9524	GEOID HEIGHT	-	-32.579 (meters)		GEOID18
DE9524	NAD 83(2011) X	-	29,900.259 (meters)		COMP
DE9524	NAD 83(2011) Y	-	-4,904,962.342 (meters)		COMP
DE9524	NAD 83(2011) Z	-	4,063,456.865 (meters)		COMP
DE9524	LAPLACE CORR	-	1.42 (seconds)		DEFLEC18
DE9524	DYNAMIC HEIGHT	-	179.677 (meters)	589.49 (feet)	COMP
DE9524	MODELED GRAVITY	-	980,077.1 (mgal)		NAVD 88

 DE9524  
 DE9524 VERT ORDER - SECOND CLASS I  
 DE9524  
 DE9524 Network accuracy estimates per FGDC Geospatial Positioning Accuracy  
 DE9524 Standards:  

	FGDC (95% conf, cm)		Standard deviation (cm)			CorrNE	
	Horiz	Ellip	SD_N	SD_E	SD_h	(unitless)	
DE9524	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	
DE9524	NETWORK	0.59	1.37	0.27	0.20	0.70	-0.03058419
DE9524	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	

 DE9524 Click [here](#) for local accuracies and other accuracy information.  
 DE9524  
 DE9524  
 DE9524.The horizontal coordinates were established by GPS observations  
 DE9524.and adjusted by the National Geodetic Survey in June 2012.  
 DE9524  
 DE9524.NAD 83(2011) refers to NAD 83 coordinates where the reference frame has  
 DE9524.been affixed to the stable North American tectonic plate. See  
 DE9524.NA2011 for more information.  
 DE9524  
 DE9524.The horizontal coordinates are valid at the epoch date displayed above  
 DE9524.which is a decimal equivalence of Year/Month/Day.  
 DE9524  
 DE9524.The orthometric height was determined by differential leveling and  
 DE9524.adjusted by the NATIONAL GEODETIC SURVEY  
 DE9524.in September 2015.  
 DE9524  
 DE9524.Significant digits in the geoid height do not necessarily reflect accuracy.  
 DE9524.GEOID18 height accuracy estimate available [here](#).  
 DE9524  
 DE9524.Click [photographs](#) - Photos may exist for this station.  
 DE9524  
 DE9524.The X, Y, and Z were computed from the position and the ellipsoidal ht.

- Datasheets are the current way to access the NSRS
- Give information about passive marks, including coordinates

# The Data in the Datasheet

```
Starting Datasheet Retrieval...
1 National Geodetic Survey, Retrieval Date = JULY 1, 2022
AC6803 *****
AC6803 HT_MOD - This is a Height Modernization Survey Station.
AC6803 PACS - This is a Primary Airport Control Station.
AC6803 DESIGNATION - AZC A
AC6803 PID - AC6803
AC6803 STATE/COUNTY- AZ/MOHAVE
AC6803 COUNTRY - US
AC6803 USGS QUAD - LOST SPRING MOUNTAIN EAST (2018)
AC6803
...
```

```
{ "datasheet":
{
  "datasheetHeading": "National Geodetic Survey",
  "datasheetRetrievalDate": "JULY 1, 2022",
  "htMod": "This is a Height Modernization Survey Station.",
  "pacs": "This is a Primary Airport Control Station.",
  "determinedProjects": [
    { "project": "GPS1154" }, { "project": "GPS2300" }, { "project": "GPS2507" }, { "project": "GPS280" },
    { "project": "GPS2846" }
  ],
  "observedProjects": [ { "project": "GPS1154" }, { "project": "GPS1195/11" }, { "project": "GPS2507" } ],
  "occupiedProjects": [ { "project": "GPS1154" }, { "project": "GPS1195/11" } ],
  "designation": "AZC A",
  "pid": "AC6803",
  "state": "AZ",
  "county": "MOHAVE",
  "country": "US",
  "quad": "LOST SPRING MOUNTAIN EAST (2018)",
  ...
}
}
```

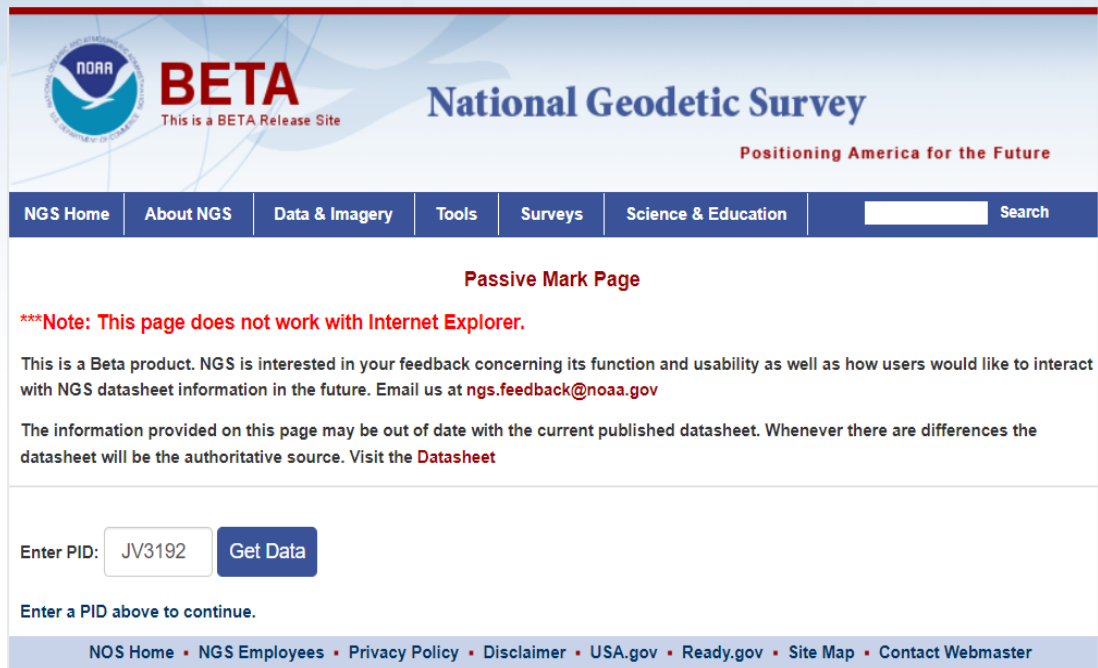
In JSON format

In ASCII format

# Beta Passive Marks page

- Easier to read
- Includes geospatial information
- A preview of the future data delivery system

<https://beta.ngs.noaa.gov/datasheets/passive-marks/index.html>





# Beta Passive Marks page

**BETA**

This is a BETA Release Site

**National Geodetic Survey**

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## Passive Mark Page

\*\*\*Note: This page does not work with Internet Explorer.

This is a Beta product. NGS is interested in your feedback concerning its function and usability as well as how users would like to interact with NGS datasheet information in the future. Email us at [ngs.feedback@noaa.gov](mailto:ngs.feedback@noaa.gov)

The information provided on this page may be out of date with the current published datasheet. Whenever there are differences the datasheet will be the authoritative source. Visit the [Datasheet](#)

Enter PID:  [Get Data](#) [Recover this mark](#) [Go to Datasheet](#)

Designation: ⓘ	SP 0109
Setting: ⓘ	7 = SET IN TOP OF CONCRETE MONUMENT
Last Recovery Date/Condition/By: ⓘ	08/06/2020 - Recovered in good condition - ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

PID: ⓘ	DE9524
Stability: ⓘ	C
GNSS Useable: ⓘ	Y
Orthometric Ht. (m): ⓘ	179.776
Vertical Datum: ⓘ	NAVD 88

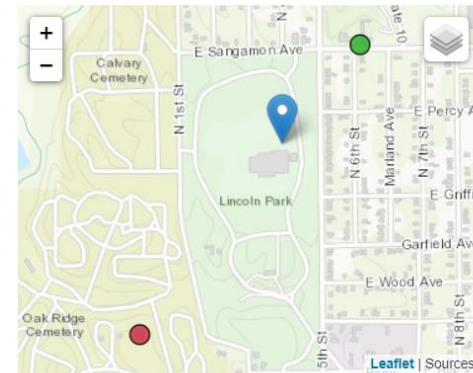
State, County: ⓘ	IL, SANGAMON
Country: ⓘ	US
Latitude: ⓘ	N 39° 49' 41.85939"
Longitude: ⓘ	W 089° 39' 02.64176"
Ellipsoid Ht.: ⓘ	147.185

Order/Class:	2/1
Geoid Ht (m): ⓘ	-32.579
Geoid Model: ⓘ	GEOID18
GNSS Ortho Ht. (m): ⓘ	179.76

Position Source: ⓘ	ADJUSTED
Network Accuracy Hz (cm): ⓘ	0.59
Network Accuracy Ellip (cm): ⓘ	1.37
Ortho Ht. Residual (cm): ⓘ	-1.2



SP 0109, DE9524, 1, 20140910



## Nearby Marks ⓘ

[Hide](#)

PID	Designation	Position Source	Vertical Source	Condition
DP8505	ELLER	HD_HELD1	ADJUSTED	MONUMENTED
KB1487	SPRINGFIELD LINCOLN MONUMENT	ADJUSTED		GOOD

# Beta Passive Marks page

## Superseded Values

NAD 83(2007)- 39 49 41.85953(N) 089 39 02.64247(W) AD(2002.00) 0

ELLIP H (02/10/07) 147.201 (m) GP(2002.00)

ELLIP H (02/03/05) 147.189 (m) GP( ) 4 2

NAD 83(1997)- 39 49 41.85960(N) 089 39 02.64226(W) AD( ) 1

ELLIP H (01/15/03) 147.204 (m) GP( ) 3 1

NAVD 88 (01/15/03) 179.7 (m) GEOID99 model used GPS OBS

## Projects

### Leveling Projects

Hide

#### L28166

Start Date:	01/06/2015	Order:	2	Agency:	AMESC
End Date:	03/27/2015	Class:	1	BM Count:	168

### GPS Projects

Hide

#### GPS2183

Start Date:	10/13/2005	End Date:	10/13/2005
Agency:	NGS	Obs. Count:	13

## Descriptive Information

Hide

PID: ⓘ	DE9524	Designation ⓘ	SP 0109
Setting Agency: ⓘ	CMT	Setting Date: ⓘ	20020611
Marker Type: ⓘ	DD	Magnetic Code: ⓘ	B
Stability Code: ⓘ	C	Setting Class: ⓘ	7
Setting Phrase: ⓘ		Logo: ⓘ	CMT
Stamping: ⓘ	SP 0109	UDG Mark Type: ⓘ	
UDG Magnetic Code: ⓘ		UDG Mark Stability: ⓘ	
UDG Mark Setting: ⓘ		UDG Mark Set Date: ⓘ	
Rod/Pipe Depth: ⓘ		Sleeve Depth: ⓘ	
Position Source: ⓘ	A	Position Quality: ⓘ	0
Position Technique: ⓘ	G	Alias: ⓘ	0109

## Descriptive Text

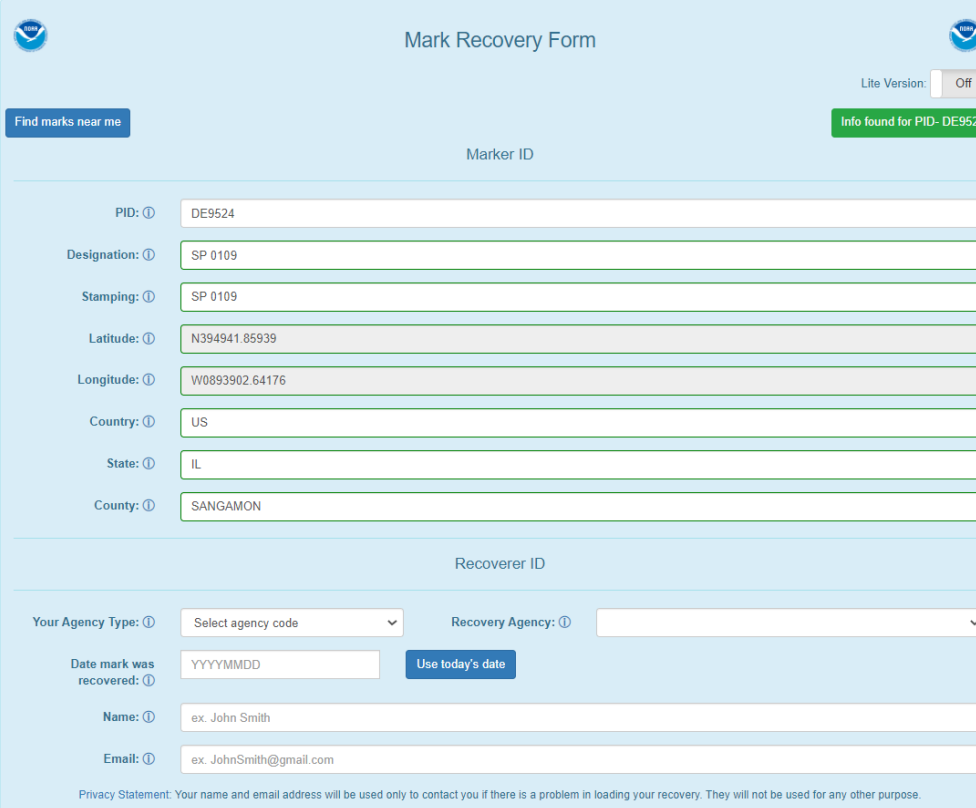
Hide

Recovery Date:	08/06/2020	Cond:	Recovered in good condition
COP:	DL	Agency:	ILDT
*			

Recovery Date:	09/10/2014	Cond:	Recovered in good condition
COP:	THH	Agency:	AMESC
RECOVERED IN GOOD CONDITION. NOTE-ADD-THE STATION IS 84.3 FT (25.7 M) NORTHWEST OF THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE BUILDING, 65.3 FT (19.9 M) WEST-NORTHWEST OF A FIRE HYDRANT, 64.9 FT (19.8 M) NORTH OF THE NORTH FACE OF THE			

# Easy to use mark recovery tool

[https://geodesy.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/mark\\_recovery\\_form.prl](https://geodesy.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/mark_recovery_form.prl)



The screenshot shows the NOAA Mark Recovery Form interface. At the top, there are NOAA logos and the title "Mark Recovery Form". A "Lite Version" toggle is set to "Off". A blue button "Find marks near me" is on the left, and a green button "Info found for PID- DE9524" is on the right. The form is divided into two main sections: "Marker ID" and "Recoverer ID".

**Marker ID Section:**

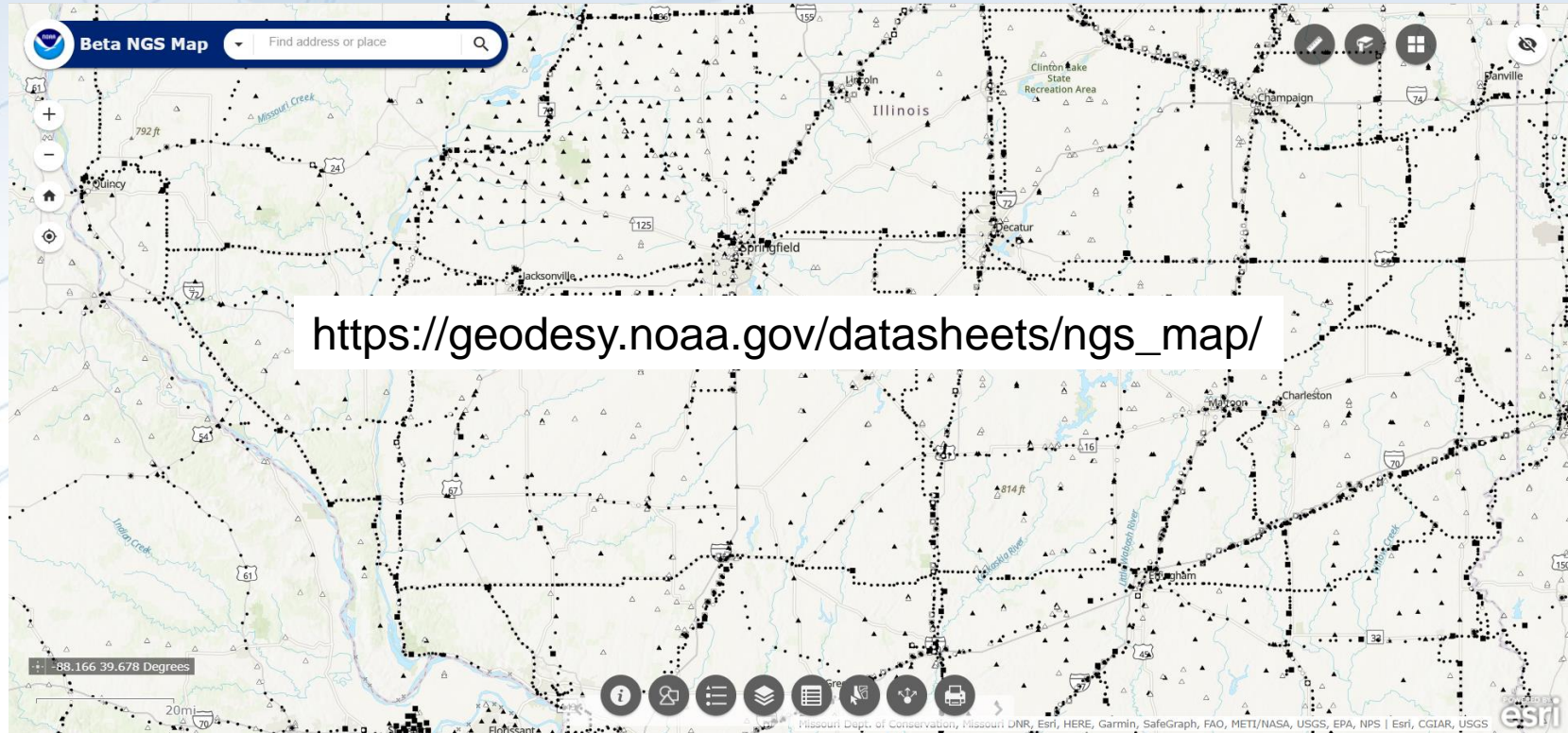
- PID: DE9524
- Designation: SP 0109
- Stamping: SP 0109
- Latitude: N394941.85939
- Longitude: W0893902.64176
- Country: US
- State: IL
- County: SANGAMON

**Recoverer ID Section:**

- Your Agency Type: Select agency code (dropdown)
- Recovery Agency: (dropdown)
- Date mark was recovered: YYYYMMDD (text input) with a "Use today's date" button.
- Name: ex. John Smith (text input)
- Email: ex. JohnSmith@gmail.com (text input)

At the bottom, a Privacy Statement reads: "Privacy Statement: Your name and email address will be used only to contact you if there is a problem in loading your recovery. They will not be used for any other purpose."

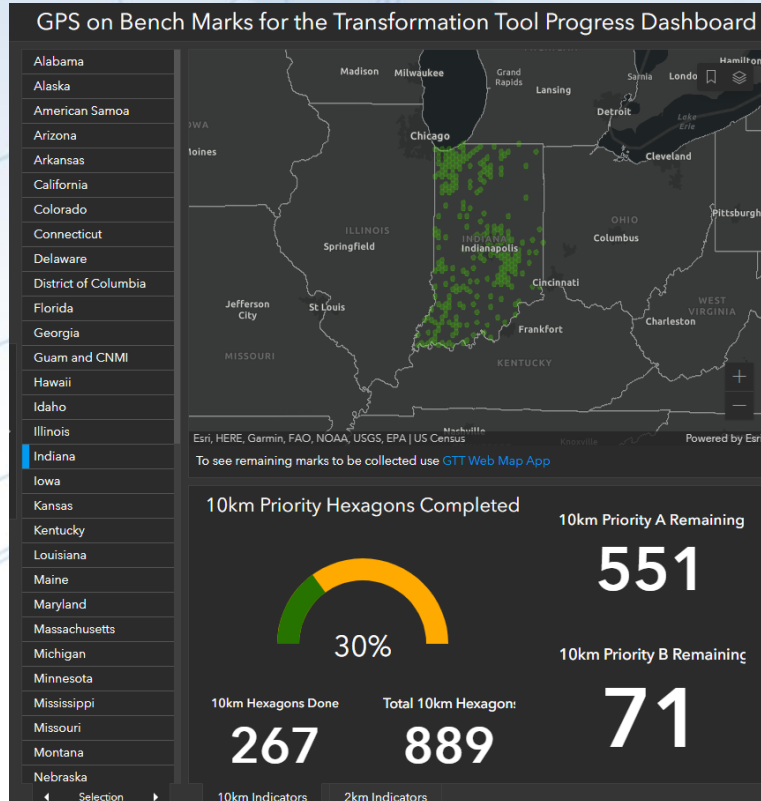
# NGS Map



# GPS ON BENCH MARKS



# GPS on Bench Marks



- Priority Map:

<https://noaa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=6093dd81e9e94f7a9062e2fe5fb2f7f5>

<https://geodesy.noaa.gov/GPSonBM/>

# GPS on Bench Marks - What & Why?

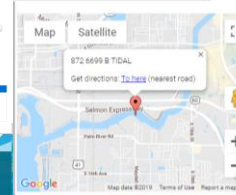
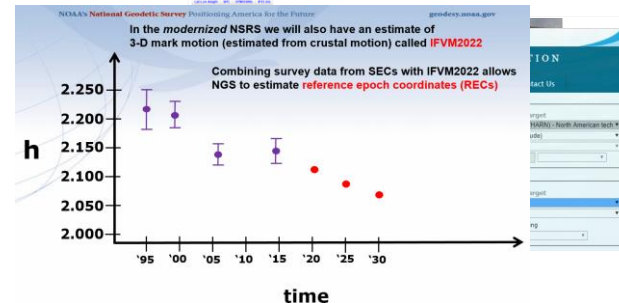
GPS on Bench Marks is about preparing the country and our communities to take full advantage of the benefits of the Modernized NSRS, by collecting new GPS observations on bench marks with published NAVD 88 heights.

## Primary GPSONBM Campaign Benefits:

- 2020.0 Reference Epoch Coordinates (REC's)
- Data for NAVD 88 – NAPGD2022 Transformation Tool
- Build time series of observations in areas of motion

## Added benefits:

- Evaluate gravimetric geoid models
- Check your RTN results
- Update and maintain passive control marks
- Identify marks suspected of movement

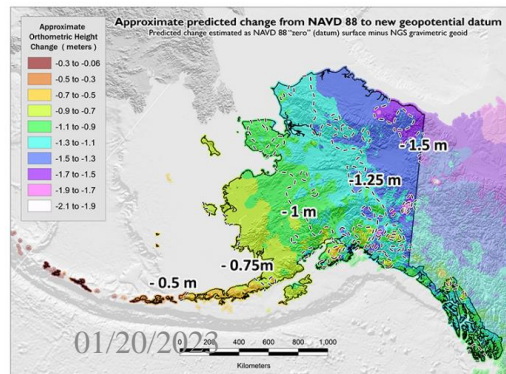


# GPSonBM Measurements Connect Current and Future Datums

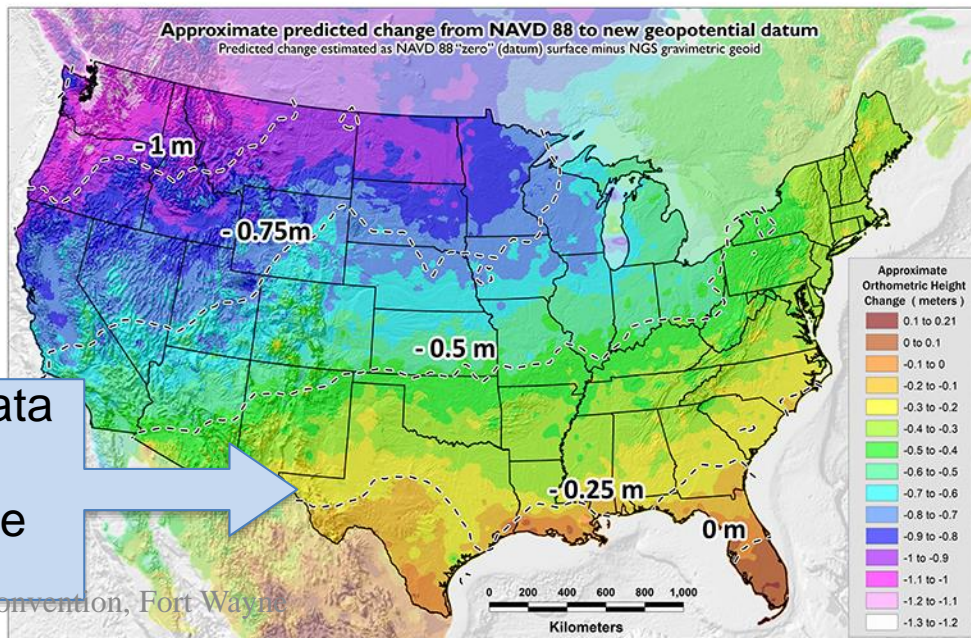
The relationship between the old and new datums vary by location. GPSonBM data is used to measure that relationship. The accuracy of the transformations in any particular place will be directly related to the density of GPSonBM data available in that area.

**In moving from NAVD 88 to NAPGD2022, there will be a Shift: A one-time 0 to 2 meter jump in orthometric heights**

-From fixing biases and/or tilts in NAVD 88



GPSonBM data is used to measure the Shift

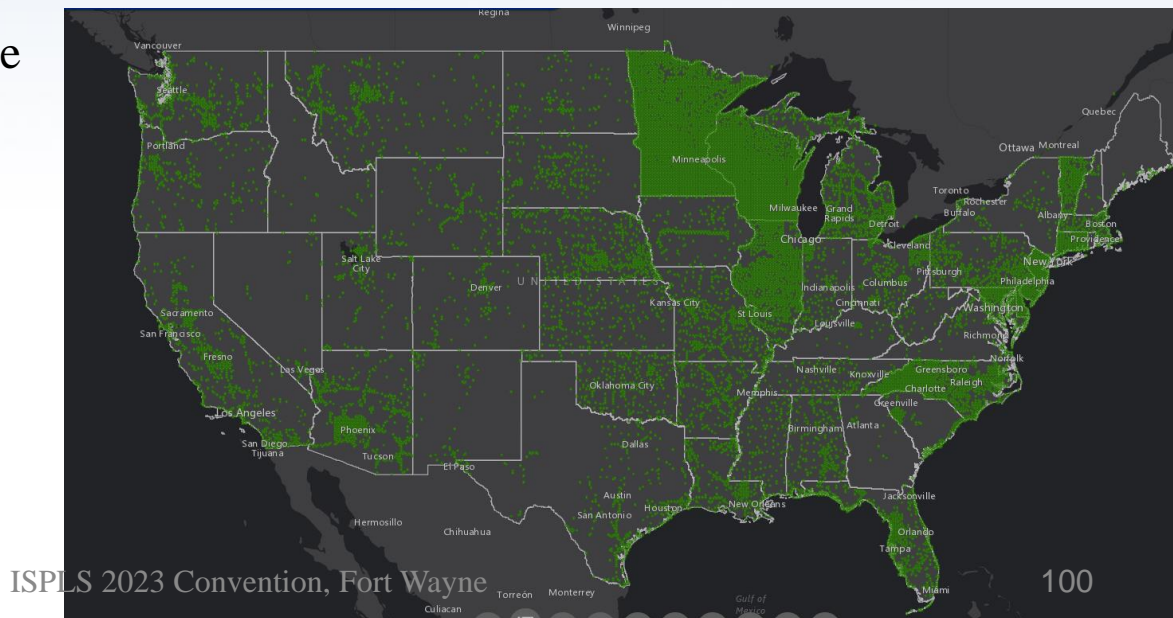
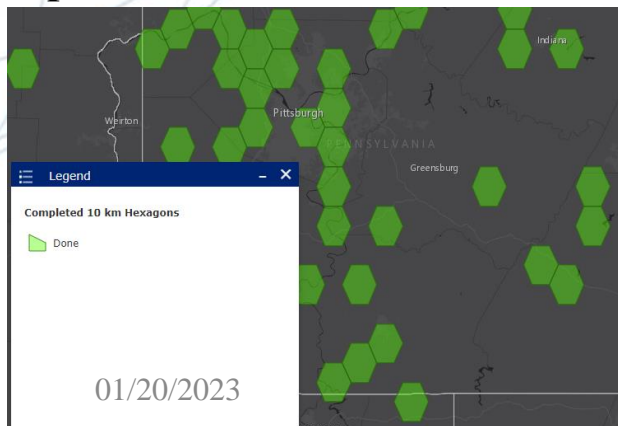






# 2022 Transformation Tool Campaign

NGS will make a **national scale, mapping grade** transformation tool with the data we have in the NGS Database and Shared through OPUS. We must interpolate over areas with data gaps.

Uncertainties in the transformed coordinates will grow larger as the distance from a GPSONBM data point increases.



# Data Contribution Routes

	 <p>via OPUS option “<u>share</u> my solution”</p> <p>share my solution <input type="button" value="Yes, share"/></p>	 <p>via OPUS option “project ID”</p> <p>project identifier <input type="text"/></p>
WHAT DATA?	<p><b>minimal</b></p> <p>one receiver, one 4+ hour observation</p>	<p><b>more;</b> many receivers, redundant sessions, network adjusted by project manager</p>
USE, in transformation tool	<p>Will be used in modeling, <b>existing BMs only (with published ortho heights)</b></p>	<p>Will be used in modeling, <b>all marks, as projects publish new NGS datasheets with ortho heights</b></p>
USE, in <b>current</b> generation datasheets	<p>for all marks, results appear as ‘shared solutions’ <b>= not published geodetic control</b> <i>for existing BM datasheets only, updates “SCALED”&gt;“HD_HELD2” coordinates</i></p>	<p>for all marks, results appear as NGS datasheets <b>= published geodetic control</b></p>
USE, in <b>next</b> generation datasheets	<p><b>will be published with 2020.00 RECs in the modernized NSRS</b></p>	



# GPSonBM Q&A

Q: What is the deadline to submit GPSonBM for the Transformation Tool?

A: **September 30, 2023**— so that observations can be used to create 2020.0 Reference Epoch Coordinates (See Blueprint 3 -Working in the Modernized NSRS)

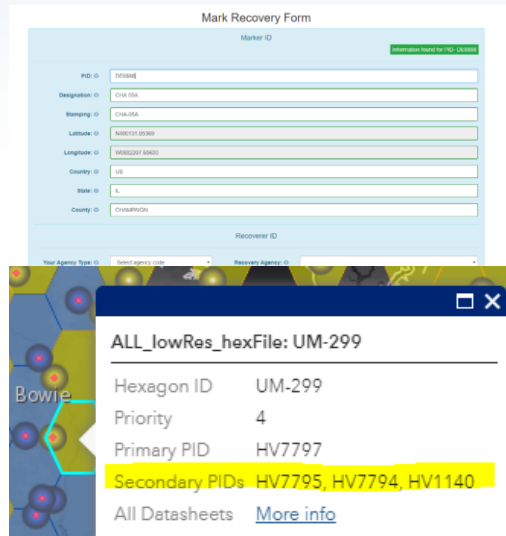
Q: Can we submit previous observations?

A: Yes! Observations made within the past 3 years may be submitted if you have the required metadata and pictures.

Q: What do we do if we can't find the priority mark or if it not observable with GPS?

A: 1) Submit a Mark Recovery with the new Mark Recovery Form.

2) Find and observe an secondary mark listed in the hexagon layer on the web map.



The image shows two overlapping screenshots. The top one is a 'Mark Recovery Form' with fields for PID, Designation, Wavelength, Latitude, Longitude, Country, State, and County. The bottom one is a web map showing a hexagon layer with a pop-up window for 'ALL\_lowRes\_hexFile: UM-299'. The pop-up lists Hexagon ID (UM-299), Priority (4), Primary PID (HV7797), and Secondary PIDs (HV7795, HV7794, HV1140). A link for 'All Datasheets' is also present.

ALL_lowRes_hexFile: UM-299	
Hexagon ID	UM-299
Priority	4
Primary PID	HV7797
Secondary PIDs	HV7795, HV7794, HV1140
All Datasheets	<a href="#">More info</a>

# GPSonBM Q&A

Q: Can we submit offset observations for marks that are not GPS-able?

A: Not for now, unless you follow the NGS [Mark Reset Procedures](#). In the future, OPUS 6.0 will enable you to process and adjust GPS, leveling, and total station observations together, and submit them to NGS.

Q: Can we submit less than 4 hours of data?

A: Yes, but only by using OPUS Projects to Bluebook the data.

Q: Can we submit RTK observations?

A: YES! The recently released BETA version of OPUS Projects 5.1 enables processing of Hybrid Survey Networks that include both static and real-time observations uploaded in the new GVX vector exchange file format.

# Required Metadata for GVXonBM

- WinDesc Files → *1 each* of .dsc, .des, .err, .dis, .nbr
  - Yes, for the foreseeable future you will need to download, install, and learn how to use WinDesc
- 3 photos per mark → uploaded to Marks Pages
  1. close-up
  2. downward from eye-level
  3. horizon/setup
- Project Report (PDF)
- Observation Logs (single PDF)



# Resources

- [Survey Project Proposal Page](#)
- [WinDesc Tutorial Video](#)
- [OPUS Projects User Guide \(HTML version\)](#)
- [OPUS Projects User Guide \(PDF version\)](#)
- [Requirements for Using OPUS-Projects 5 in the 2023 GPSonBM Campaign](#)

# IGLD UPDATE

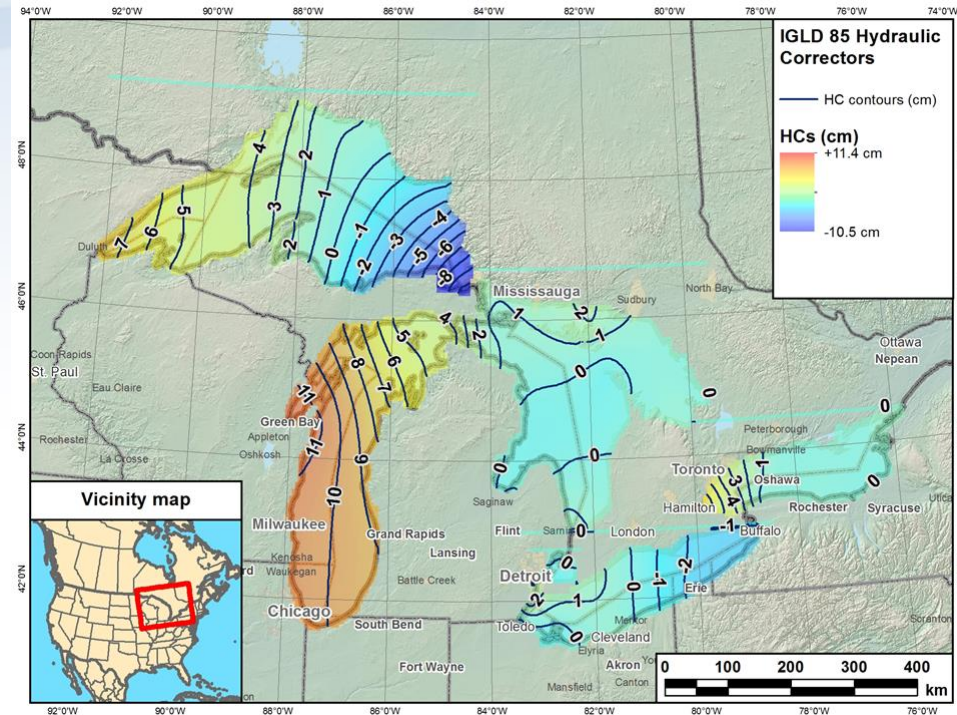


# What is IGLD?

- International Great Lakes Datum (IGLD) is a common height reference system by which water levels can be measured and meaningfully related to each other
- Joint effort between the United States and Canada
- Maintained by the Coordinating Committee on Great Lakes Basic Hydraulic and Hydrologic Data
- Due primarily to Glacial Isostatic Adjustment, IGLD is updated every 25-35 years
- The next update will be IGLD (2020)

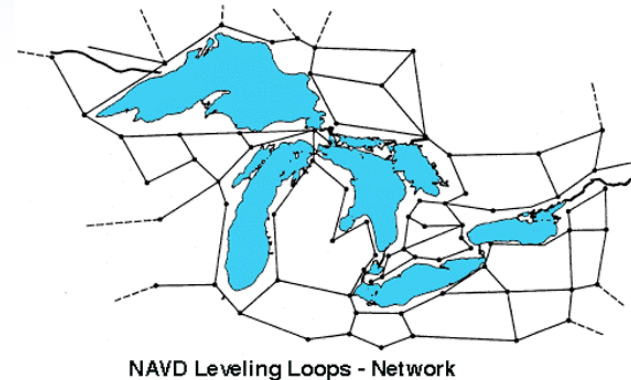
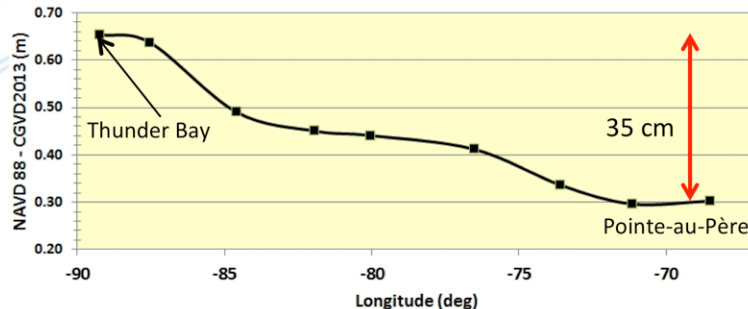
# Current IGLD

- IGLD (1985) replaced IGLD (1955) in 1992
- Same reference zero as NAVD 88 (at Pointe au Père, Québec)
- Surface determined by leveling
- Dynamic heights
- Hydraulic correctors



# IGLD (1985) Reference Surface

- Reference surface is each lake (equipotential surface) to which heights are referenced
- IGLD 1955 & 1985 used 1000's miles of geodetic leveling to indirectly define the reference surface
  - Very time consuming & cost prohibitive
  - Datum accessible only where leveling exists (benchmarks)
  - Susceptible to accumulation of systematic errors
- Extends the reference zero inland

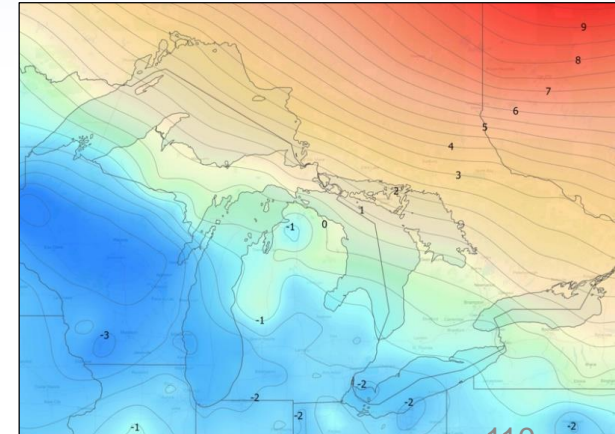
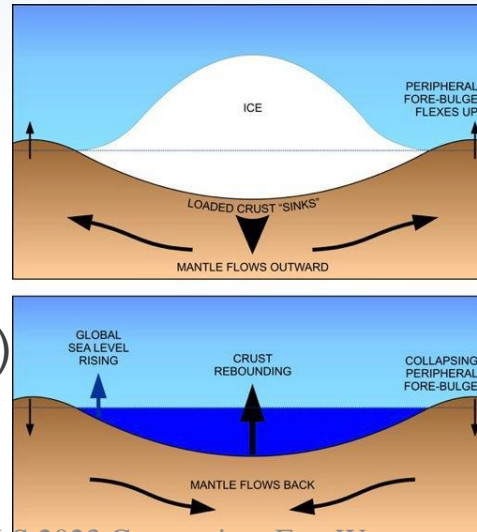


# Why a new IGLD?: Glacial Isostatic Adjustment – (GIA)

*Process of Glacial Isostatic Adjustment (left) and the resulting tilting of the entire Great Lakes region (right) as determined by high accuracy GPS measurements in units of mm/year. M. Craymer and C. Wisotzkey, 2021.*

## Entire basin is:

- Uplifting in north
- Subsiding in south
- Overall tilting ~7 mm/year  
(21cm or 0.7' over 30 year)
- Need to update IGLD  
every 25-30 years





# Definition of IGLD (2020)

- Reference Zero
  - $W_0 = 62,636,856.00 \text{ m}^2/\text{s}^2$  that the U.S. and Canada have adopted for the new geoid-based North American-Pacific Geopotential Datum of 2022 (NAPGD2022) & Canada has already adopted for the Canadian Geodetic Vertical Datum of 2013 (CGVD2013)
- Realization of the Reference Surface
  - NAPGD2022 geoid model representing the reference zero everywhere over the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River system, not only where leveling and bench marks exist
- Reference Epoch
  - 2020.0, the central epoch of the 7-year water level observation period of 2017–2023
- Dynamic Height
  - IGLD (2020) will use dynamic heights derived from GNSS occupations
  - The dynamic height represents the difference in potential above the reference surface and is the same at all points on a level surface



# Status of IGLD Update

- GNSS field campaign took place in 2022 – data processing continues
- Seasonal gauging continues
- Hydraulic corrector working group is investigating the need for HCs in IGLD (2020)
- IGLD (2020) is planned for release about one year after the release of the NAPGD2022 vertical datum (around 2026)

# 2022 IGLD GNSS Campaign

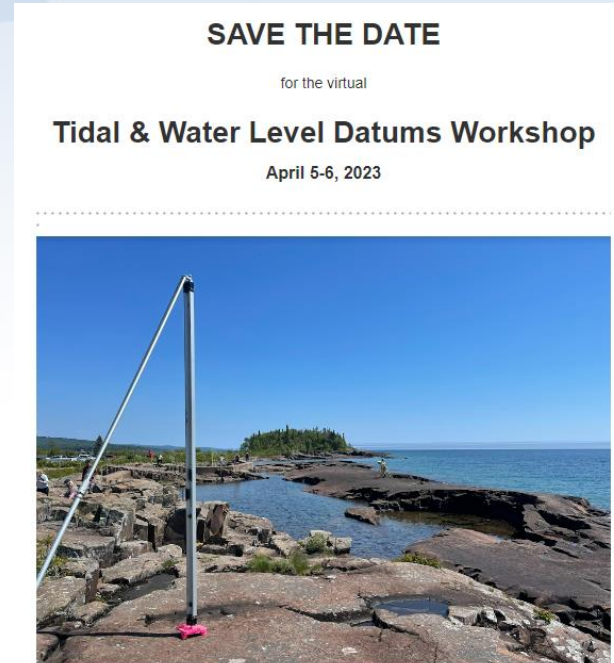
Open in Map Viewer New Map ▾ Jacob ▾

Save Share Print Directions Measure Bookmarks Find address or place



# Save the Date! Water Level Datum Workshop

- NOAA, the Canadian Hydrographic Service (CHS), and the Coordinating Committee on Great Lakes Basic Hydraulic and Hydrologic Data would like to invite you to a virtual workshop on Tidal and Water Level Datums. Participants will have the opportunity to learn more about the datums and impacts on the coastal, navigation and shipping communities and industries.
- **April 5:** *National Tidal Datum Epoch (NTDE)*
- **April 6:** *International Great Lakes Datum (IGLD) and the Low Water Datum (LWD)*
- The workshop will feature presentations and discussions from NOAA's Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services, the National Geodetic Survey, and the Office of Coast Survey, as well as U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, CHS, Natural Resources Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada, and others.



# Save the Date! NGS day at FIG 2023

NGS will present a full day's worth of content at the 2023 FIG Working Week in Orlando, FL on May 31, 2023

<https://fig.net/fig2023/>

<https://geodesy.noaa.gov/datums/newdatums/fig-2023.shtml>

## FIG 2023 Working Week



Save the Date: NGS @ FIG - May 31, 2023

NGS will be presenting a full-day's worth of content on NSRS Modernization during the **FIG Working Week 2023** meeting taking place at the end of May 2023 in Orlando, Florida. For the first time in over 20 years, this annual gathering of the **International Federation of Surveyors** will be taking place in the United States, hosted by the **National Society of Professional Surveyors** (NSPS).

The International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) is a United Nations and World Bank recognized non-governmental international professional organization. FIG was founded in 1878 and represents national associations of surveying, cadastre, valuation, national mapping professionals, geospatial experts and quantity surveyors working in both the public and private sectors, in the scientific, research and academic community, as well as from technology innovators and industry from more than 120 countries around the world.

We encourage you to attend the entire event and be sure to join us on the Wednesday after Memorial Day, May 31, 2023 for an NSRS Modernization update.

REGISTER



# NGS Webinar Series

- Monthly webinars highlight geodesy and coastal mapping programs, products, and research
- Each webinar features an NGS employee delving into a topic of interest, and generally includes a moderated question and answer session
- Registration is free and video recordings are made available for later viewing
- Certificates of attendance are available

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**Upcoming Webinars**

**JANUARY 12 2023**  
2-3:30 pm EST

**Using RTN Data in OPUS Projects 5 for GPSONBM**  
Presenters: Jeff Jalbrzikowski, Appalachian Regional Advisor, Geodetic Services Division, and Dan Gillins, Ph.D, Geodesist, Observation and Analysis Division, NGS

This webinar will describe the workflow and protocols to collect short GNSS observations using Real-Time Networks (RTN) and submit them as .GVX files to the NGS Beta OPUS Projects 5 to support the goals of the GPS on Bench Marks program's Transformation Tool campaign.

**REGISTER**

>> Learn more about this webinar

Website Owner: National Geodetic Survey / Last modified by NGS.InfoCenter Dec 12 2022

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[https://geodesy.noaa.gov/web/science\\_edu/webinar\\_series/](https://geodesy.noaa.gov/web/science_edu/webinar_series/)



# <https://geodesy.noaa.gov/>



NOAA's National Geodetic Survey (NGS) provides the framework for all positioning activities in the Nation. The foundational elements of latitude, longitude, elevation, and shoreline information impact a wide range of important activities.



Process GPS  
Data (OPUS)



NGS Data  
Explorer



Looking for  
Bench Marks



Conversion &  
Transformation  
(NCAT)



NOAA CORS  
Network



New Datums

Popular Links

New Visitor

Storm Imagery

State Plane Coordinates

Stay Informed: Subscribe



News Bulletins



# Thank You!

Jacob M. Heck, Ph.D., P.S.

Great Lakes Regional Geodetic Advisor (IN, IL, WI, MI)

U.S. National Geodetic Survey, NOAA

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c/o NOAA Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory

4840 S. State Road

Ann Arbor, MI 48108

For more information, visit <https://geodesy.noaa.gov>