

Geographic Names



Information Guide



***PROVIDING
OFFICIAL GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
FOR OVER A CENTURY***

U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN)

The U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN) develops the principles, policies, and procedures governing the place name usage for official Federal Government purposes. In fulfillment of this mission, the BGN oversees the official United States Government repositories of geographic names.

BGN geographic names resources are available for the following four major areas:

- Domestic names
- Foreign names
- Antarctic names
- Undersea feature names

Web Site

Geographic names resources are available at the BGN's home page:

<http://geonames.usgs.gov/>

The Web site provides access to all four areas of place name resources through query interfaces to the BGN's on-line databases, as well as download capabilities for larger place name files.

Place Name Inquiries

Any person or organization, public or private, may make inquiries to the Board, or request the Board to render formal decisions on place names.

Domestic Names

The BGN's Domestic Names Committee provides guidance and decisions for names of geographic entities in the United States and areas under its sovereignty.

Web Site

<http://geonames.usgs.gov/domestic/index.html>

Online Gazetteer of Official Names

<http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnispublic/>

Download Data

http://geonames.usgs.gov/domestic/download_data.htm

Propose or Change a Name

<http://geonames.usgs.gov/domestic/index.html>

Inquiries

Direct inquiries to:

Mr. Lou Yost
Executive Secretary, Domestic Names
U.S. Geological Survey
523 National Center
Reston, Virginia 20192-0523

Phone: 703-648-4552

E-mail: lyost@usgs.gov



Foreign Names

The BGN's Foreign Names Committee provides guidance and decisions for names of geographic entities outside the sovereign jurisdiction of the United States.

Web Site

<http://geonames.usgs.gov/foreign/index.html>

Online Gazetteer of Official Names

<http://geonames.nga.mil/gns/html/>

Download Data

<http://geonames.nga.mil/gns/html/namefiles.html>

Inquiries

Direct inquiries to:

Mr. Marcus Allsup
Acting Executive Secretary, Foreign Names
National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency
7500 GEOINT Drive Mail Stop N62
Springfield, Virginia 22150-7500

Phone: 571-557-6225
E-mail: marcus.w.allsup@nga.mil



Antarctic Names

The BGN Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names provides guidance and decisions on the names of Antarctic features.

Web Site

<http://geonames.usgs.gov/antarctic/index.html>

Online Gazetteer of Official Names

<http://geonames.usgs.gov>
(Click on Search Antarctica Data)

Download Data

http://geonames.usgs.gov/domestic/download_data.htm

Inquiries

Direct inquiries on Antarctic place names to:

Secretary, Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names
523 National Center
U.S. Geological Survey
Reston, Virginia 20192-0523

Phone: 703-648-4552
E-mail: bgnexec@usgs.gov



Undersea Feature Names

The US BGN Advisory Committee on Undersea Features provides guidance and recommends decisions on the names of undersea features beyond the 12 nautical mile limit of the territorial sea of all nations.

Web Site

<http://geonames.nga.mil/gns/html/acuf.html>

Online Gazetteer of Official Names

<http://geonames.nga.mil/namesgaz/>
(Click on Undersea Features in the "Country Name" box in the Names Search)

Download Data

<http://geonames.nga.mil/gns/html/namefiles.html>

New Undersea Feature Name Proposals

<http://geonames.nga.mil/gns/html/acuf.html>

Inquiries

Direct inquiries on undersea feature names to:

Mr. Marcus Allsup
Acting Executive Secretary, Foreign Names
National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency
7500 GEOINT Drive, Mail Stop N62
Springfield, Virginia 22150-7500

Phone: 571-557-7028
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