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**Ninth United Nations Conference on the  
Standardization of Geographical Names**

New York, 21-30 August 2007

Item 12 (c) of the provisional agenda\*

**Toponymic data files: toponymic data transfer standards and formats****Proposed national standard for the United States of America  
for identifying attributes of named physical and cultural  
geographic features****Submitted by the United States of America\*\*****Summary\*\*\***

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) geographic names project and the United States Bureau of Census submitted to the American National Standards Institute a proposal to establish a national standard addressing minimum identifying attributes for selected named geographic features. As defined and stored in the USGS Geographic Names Information System database, those attributes are: (a) the unique, permanent, feature record identifier; (b) the official feature name; and (c) the official feature location. The Institute accepted the proposal, and on 15 June 2007, a draft standard was submitted for formal review. It is expected that the standard will be approved before the end of 2007.

The purpose of the standard is to facilitate accurate and consistent representation of geographic feature data for the nation, as defined by data owners and authoritative sources, and to promote efficient management and exchange of such data among numerous critical, but overlapping and potentially conflicting data sets. The standard complies with the mission and statutory requirements of the United States Board on Geographic Names. The standard supports the primary mechanisms for storage, management, display and exchange of geographic feature data, particularly among geographic information systems, relational databases and Internet-based applications and services.

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\* E/CONF.98/1.

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\*\*\* The full text of the report is being issued in English only as document E/CONF.98/113/Add.1.

