

# CHARTER

## North Carolina Board on Geographic Names

The **North Carolina Board on Geographic Names** is a standing committee of the Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee, which operates under the authority of the North Carolina Geographic Information Coordinating Council.

The North Carolina Board on Geographic Names (NCBGN) is the State authority recognized by the US Board on Geographic Names to consult with and make recommendations concerning geographic names.

### **Role of US Board on Geographic Names**

The US Board on Geographic Names serves the Federal Government and the general public as a central authority to which all name problems, name inquiries, and new name proposals can be directed. It operates the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) which contains information about the proper names for places, features, and areas in the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the territories and outlying areas of the United States, as well as for Antarctica. The GNIS has been named as the official repository for North Carolina place names by the Geographic Information Coordinating Council.

### **Duties of NC Board on Geographic Names**

The NCBGN will review and document name-change proposals forwarded directly from the public, or discovered through a North Carolina listing in the US Board on Geographic Names' quarterly review. The NCBGN is responsible for reviewing North Carolina proposals and seeking input from appropriate local government agencies to establish accepted usage and support for the proposed feature name. When possible, the NCBGN will conduct its business by in-person meetings.

The NCBGN will report its recommendations to a quarterly meeting of the Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee. Upon SMAC approval, the Chair of the NCBGN will communicate and recommend approval, or non-approval of the proposed name to the US Board on Geographic Names. The NCBGN will follow-up any questions raised by either the US Board on Geographic Names or the individual who proposed the name change.

### **Appointment of the Chair**

The Chair of the NCBGN will be appointed by the Chair of the Geographic Information Coordinating Council for a period of two years.

### **Committee Membership**

The NCBGN includes members from the following State agencies/entities:

- NC Department of Transportation
- NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources-NC Geological Survey
- NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Division of Water Quality
- UNC System
- NC Department of Cultural Resources
- GICC Local Government Committee

*Approved by the Geographic Information Coordinating Council, August 12, 2009*