

# SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

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## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS GEOGRAPHIC FEATURE NAMES

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Updated Draft – June 29, 2015

## GENERAL INFORMATION

The South Dakota Board on Geographic Names (SDBGN) shall investigate any proposed names, solicit public input and make a recommendation to the United States Board on Geographic Names (USBGN) as to whether the board supports a new or replacement name. The board may establish procedures and standards to recommend, evaluate, and select geographic place names by rules promulgated pursuant to chapter 1-26. The rules shall be compatible with the standards of the USBGN as contained in its manual, Principles, Policies and Procedures: Domestic Names, Reston, Virginia, 1997. ([http://geonames.usgs.gov/docs/pro pol pro.pdf](http://geonames.usgs.gov/docs/pro%20pol%20pro.pdf)).

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The SDBGN is comprised of representatives from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Tourism, Department of Transportation and State Historical Society as well as the Secretary of Tribal Relations.

The board maintains a website where notices, agendas, press releases, general information and public comment are posted. The website is: [www.sdbgn.sd.gov](http://www.sdbgn.sd.gov)

SDBGN will issue press releases statewide.

SDBGN will post information on the State's Boards and Commissions website.

The board may hold a board meeting in city(s) near the geographic feature with a name under review to solicit public comment for local citizens. The board reserves the right to add additional meeting sites as deemed necessary to solicit public comment.

Board meetings will be scheduled in coordination with the timeline for the public involvement process for each feature under review by the board. And the meetings will be scheduled in an accessible location.

If there are no geographic features' names for review, the board will meet once a year in December at the call of the Chair.

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**PROCESS FOR RECOMMENDING NEW NAME FOR GEOGRAPHIC FEATURES WITH OFFENSIVE NAMES (AS DEEMED BY THE STATE LEGISLATURE OR U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES)**

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**1. Solicit Potential New Name for Geographic Feature**

- a. Identify the various entities to solicit. The list may include any or all of the following potential contacts:
  - i. County Governments
  - ii. City Governments
  - iii. Tribal Governments
  - iv. Minority Contacts
  - v. Local Historical Societies
  - vi. Interested Parties
  - vii. Local State Legislators
  - viii. News Media (Statewide & Local to Geographic Feature)
- b. Draft written notice including information about the geographical site; public comment period deadline; contact information to submit public comments and map denoting location – commentators will be directed to the US Board on Geographic Names Policy document (<http://geonames.usgs.gov/domestic/policies.htm>) to maximize potential that suggested names will meet federal requirements for final approval by the US Board
- c. Disseminate written notice to identified parties of interest
- d. Issues press release to media requesting public comment on a proposed name for the geographic feature
- e. Public Comment period during initial solicitation period is 45 days from date written notice is issued
- f. Following Public Comment Period – SD Board on Geographic Names will review comments and suggested names for geographic feature

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**2. Multiple Names Recommended during Public Comment Period**

- a. Send written notice to identified parties of interest to notify them of the recommended names for geographic feature and ask for additional comments regarding the names proposed and rationale for support or opposition to the proposed names
- b. Issue press release to media requesting public comment on proposed names
- c. Public comment period during the review of proposed names is 45 days from date written notice is issued
- d. Following Public Comment Period SD Board on Geographic Names will review comments on proposed names and make final recommendation on name to be proposed.
- e. Written notice of the recommended new name will be sent to identified interested parties for final 30 day comment period

- f. Following Public Comment Period – SD Board on Geographic Names will review comments and suggested names for geographic feature
  - i. Administrative Review of proposed name
  - ii. If no opposition is received to recommended new name, **a final vote is taken and the recommendation is** submitted to US Geographic Name Board
  - iii. If oppositions is received to recommended new name, the SD Board on Geographic Names will review opposition and make recommendation on how to proceed based on the public comment received

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**3. One recommended new name for Geographic Feature during Public Comment Period**

- a. Written notice of the recommended new name will be sent to identified interested parties for final 30 day comment period
- b. Issue press release to media requesting public comment on proposed name
- c. Following Public Comment Period – SD Board on Geographic Names will review comments
  - i. Administrative Review of proposed name
  - ii. If no opposition is received to recommended new name, **a final vote is taken and the recommendation is** submitted to US Geographic Name Board
  - iii. If oppositions is received to recommended new name, the SD Board on Geographic Names will review opposition and make recommendation on how to proceed based on the public comment received

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**4. No recommended Name for Geographic Feature during Public Comment Period**

- a. SD Board on Geographic Names will conduct historical research on the feature and based on that research will recommend new name for geographic feature
- b. The Board will document sources of research and generate narrative to support new name to include in written notice to identified interested parties
- c. Written notice of the recommended new name will be sent to identified interested parties for final 30 day comment period
- d. Issue press release to media requesting public comment on proposed name
- e. Following Public Comment Period – SD Board on Geographic Names will review comments
  - i. Administrative Review of proposed name
  - ii. If no opposition is received to recommended new name, **a final vote is taken and the recommendation is** submitted to US Geographic Name Board

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- iii. If oppositions is received to recommended new name, the SD Board on Geographic Names will review opposition and make recommendation on how to proceed based on the public comment received

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### **PROCESS FOR REVIEWING REQUEST FROM THE PUBLIC OR U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES TO NAME UNNAMED FEATURES**

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The board will not take action on unnamed features unless an official request is received. And in the case of an official request to name an unnamed geographic feature, the SDBGN will solicit the public and interested parties to see if there are any other additional suggested names for the unnamed geographic features.

#### **1. Notify Public and Interested Parties of Request to Name Unnamed Feature and Solicit any Other Additional Potential Names for Feature**

- a. Identify the various entities to solicit. The list may include any or all of the following potential contacts:
  - i. County Governments
  - ii. City Governments
  - iii. Tribal Governments
  - iv. Minority Contacts
  - v. Local Historical Societies
  - vi. Interested Parties
  - vii. Local State Legislators
  - viii. News Media (Statewide & Local to Geographic Feature)
- b. Draft written notice including information about the geographical site; public comment period deadline; contact information to submit public comments and map denoting location – commentators will be directed to the US Board on Geographic Names (USBGN) Policy document (<http://geonames.usgs.gov/domestic/policies.htm>) to maximize potential that suggested names will meet federal requirements for final approval by the US Board
- c. Disseminate written notice to identified parties of interest
- d. Issues press release to media requesting public comment on a proposed name for the geographic feature
- e. Public Comment period during initial solicitation period is 45 days from date written notice is issued

#### **2. Following Public Comment Period – SD Board on Geographic Names (SDBGN) will review comments and suggested names for geographic feature**

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- a. SDBGN will review name proposed and supporting document. If more than one name is proposed, the board will research and vote on one name to recommend to the USBGN
- b. Written notice of the recommended new name will be sent to identified interested parties for final 30 day comment period

- c. Issue press release to media requesting public comment on proposed name
- d. Following Public Comment Period – SD Board on Geographic Names will review comments
  - i. Administrative Review of proposed name
  - ii. If no opposition is received to recommended new name, the name a final vote will be taken and recommendation will be submitted to US Geographic Name Board
  - iii. If oppositions is received to recommended new name, the SD Board on Geographic Names will review opposition and make recommendation on how to proceed based on the public comment received

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**PROCESS FOR REVIEWING REQUEST FROM THE PUBLIC OR U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES TO RENAME GEOGRAPHIC FEATURE**

The board will not solicit additional names for a geographic feature that currently has a name. This is consistent with U.S. Board of Geographic Names policies and procedures. The SDBGN will focus on reviewing the current name and the proposed new name. If additional names are officially submitted for consideration the board will either combine the public involvement or consider each request separately.

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**1. Notify Public and Interested Parties of Request to Rename Geographic Feature**

- a. Identify the various entities to solicit. The list may include any or all of the following potential contacts:
  - i. County Governments
  - ii. City Governments
  - iii. Tribal Governments
  - iv. Minority Contacts
  - v. Local Historical Societies
  - vi. Interested Parties
  - vii. Local State Legislators
  - viii. News Media (Statewide & Local to Geographic Feature)
- b. Draft written notice including information about the geographical site; public comment period deadline; contact information to submit public comments and map denoting location – commentators will be directed to the US Board on Geographic Names (USBGN) Policy document (<http://geonames.usgs.gov/domestic/policies.htm>) to maximize potential that suggested names will meet federal requirements for final approval by the US Board
- c. Disseminate written notice to identified parties of interest

- d. Issues press release to media requesting public comment on a proposed name for the geographic feature
- e. Public Comment period during initial solicitation period is 45 days from date written notice is issued
- 2. Following Public Comment Period – SD Board on Geographic Names (SDBGN) will review comments and suggested names for geographic feature
  - a. SDBGN will review name proposed and supporting document. If any other names are suggested, that information will be added to the documentation file but will only consider another name if a formal request is received. If there more than one new name is officially proposed, the board will research and vote on one name to recommend to the USBGN
  - b. Written notice of the recommendation will be sent to identified interested parties for final 30 day comment period
  - c. Issue press release to media requesting public comment on proposed name
  - d. Following Public Comment Period – SD Board on Geographic Names will review comments
    - i. Administrative Review of proposed name
    - ii. If no opposition is received to the board's recommendation, the name a final vote will be taken and recommendation will be submitted to US Geographic Name Board
    - iii. If oppositions is received to board's recommendation, the SD Board on Geographic Names will review opposition and make recommendation on how to proceed based on the public comment received

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1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions.

2. It then goes on to describe the various methods used to collect and analyze data.

3. The next section details the results of the study, showing a clear trend in the data.

4. Finally, the document concludes with a summary of the findings and some suggestions for future research.

5. The overall conclusion is that the data strongly supports the hypothesis that was tested.

6. It is hoped that this study will provide a useful reference for other researchers in the field.

7. The author would like to thank the following individuals for their assistance and support:

8. Dr. John Doe, Department of Psychology, University of California, Los Angeles.

9. Mr. James Smith, Department of Statistics, Stanford University.

10. Ms. Sarah Johnson, Department of Sociology, New York University.

11. The author also wishes to express his appreciation to the National Science Foundation for their generous support of this research.

12. This document is a preliminary report and should not be used for any other purpose without the author's permission.