



# Federal Emergency Management Agency

Washington, D.C. 20472

**APR 26 2001**

Julie Binder Maitra  
Standards Coordinator  
US Geological Survey  
590 National Center  
Reston, Virginia 20192

Subject: FEMA's Recommendation on the Proposed US National Grid Standard

Dear Ms. Binder Maitra:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) supports the adoption of the US National Grid (USNG) as a standard for horizontal reference mapping in the United States. The FEMA program offices anticipate that use of this system for identifying locations among emergency management personnel and agencies will help save lives, reduce the costs of disaster, and enhance preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation efforts. Particularly valuable is its compatibility with the system used by the National Guard and others, the Military Grid Reference System (MGRS). The USNG standard also appears reasonably compatible with current capabilities of the Global Positioning System (GPS), and has the potential to be quite effective as a locational tool if future GPS devices adopt the standard. FEMA recommends that the FGDC adopt the USNG system as the horizontal reference system for all general-purpose mapping.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Michael K. Buckley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Michael K. Buckley, P.E., Director  
Technical Services Division  
Mitigation Directorate