



# NEWS

**Federal Communications Commission**  
**445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.**  
**Washington, D. C. 20554**

**News Media Information 202 / 418-0500**  
**Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov>**  
**TTY: 1-888-835-5322**

---

This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.  
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 29, 2003

NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:  
Chelsea Fallon at (202) 418-7991

## **FCC AND NATIONAL IMAGERY AND MAPPING AGENCY SIGN INTER-AGENCY MOU FOR QUARTERLY SHARING OF DATABASES ON TOWER LOCATIONS**

Washington, D.C. – The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the National Imagery and Mapping Agency (NIMA) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) today to exchange unclassified database information on tower locations on a quarterly basis. The MOU will support the efforts of the two agencies in maintaining accurate information on vertical obstructions and antenna facilities for purposes of national security, aircraft navigation safety, and the deployment of wireless communications services.

According to the terms of the MOU, signed by John B. Muleta, Chief of the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, and Lynne Puetz, Chief of NIMA's Aeronautical Safety Division, the FCC will provide information contained in its Antenna Structure Registration (ASR) database, while NIMA will contribute its Digital Vertical Obstruction File (DVOF). The FCC's ASR database contains information about antenna structures in the United States and its Possessions and Territories. The FCC's rules require that the owner of any proposed or existing antenna structure must register the structure with the FCC if it is used by an FCC licensee and if it requires notice of proposed construction to the Federal Aviation Administration (see 47 C.F.R. § 17.4).

NIMA is both a national intelligence and combat support agency whose mission is to provide timely, relevant, and accurate Geospatial Intelligence in support of the national security of the United States. Geospatial Intelligence is the exploitation and analysis of imagery and geospatial information to describe, assess, and visually depict physical features and geographically referenced activities on Earth. NIMA's DVOF contains certain unclassified geospatial data about the United States and its Possessions and Territories.

The FCC will use the information received from NIMA to improve the accuracy of its ASR database and to monitor ASR compliance. The FCC may also use the DVOF to populate a proposed database of tower sites or possible tower sites to assist its licensees in collocating their facilities. The information exchange will assist the FCC in accomplishing its missions of promoting public safety and the availability of radio communication services to the American public.

The MOU will assist NIMA in accomplishing its mission of providing timely, relevant, and accurate imagery and imagery information to national, military, and civilian customers in support of national security objectives. The information exchange will provide an additional resource to assess the currency and accuracy of the DVOF database, which is subject to constant change.

The FCC and NIMA agree that it is mutually beneficial to exchange this data for internal use and for the development of publicly-available databases by each agency. The two agencies also find that this MOU will provide a system of “checks and balances” that will benefit the FCC, NIMA, and the public.

FCC Contact: Diane Leer (717) 338-2568, [dleer@fcc.gov](mailto:dleer@fcc.gov)

NIMA Contact: Joan Mears (301) 227-2057, [mearsj@nima.mil](mailto:mearsj@nima.mil)