

# Coordination of Power Lines Geospatial Data

Initial meeting  
May 11, 2018  
9 AM to 12 PM

Northwest Natural  
220 NW 2nd Avenue  
Portland, OR

Meeting notes prepared by Theresa Burcsu, [theresa.burcsu@oregon.gov](mailto:theresa.burcsu@oregon.gov)

## Attendees

Alec Shebiel	Jacob Kellogg	Rob Weik
Arty Rodriguez*	Jennifer Joly	Scott Rosenbalm
Brian Fritz	Lori Koho	Theresa Burcsu
Cy Smith	Mark Tuttle*	Thomas Springsteen*
Daniel Stoelb*	Micah Babinski	Tom Carlson*
Don Pettit	Patrick Gronli	Marshall Payne
Doug Wittren	Paul Titus	
Eric Hiebenthal	Phil McClellan	

\* Remote attendee

## Action items

1. Share presented materials with group
2. Share the bibliography and use cases with group
3. Share mind map resulting from the facilitated discussion with group

## Materials

1. [Agenda](#)
2. [A vision for power lines data](#)
3. [BLM vision for Power Line GIS Data](#)
4. [PacifiCorp vision for power line GIS data](#)
5. [ERMA](#) (Environmental Response Management Application)
6. [RAPTOR](#) (Real-Time Assessment and Planning Tool for ORegon)
7. [OSDL \(Oregon Spatial Data Library\)](#)
8. Facilitated discussion mind map (coming soon)
9. [Data Security Requirements and Bibliography](#)
10. [Power Lines Work Group use cases](#)

## Definitions

Joint-use	Power poles are often used by multiple parties, not just the owners. Examples of uses include: power line support, cellular network, street lights.
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RAPTOR, Real-Time Assessment and Planning Tool for ORegon	Situational awareness tool for spatially visualizing (mapping) and coordinating response to emergency situations.
NERC	North American Electric Reliability Corporation
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
WEC	
ERMA	Environmental Response Management Application. NOAA interactive mapping tool for mitigation, planning, and response.

Meeting Minutes

**I. Welcome and introductions**

Theresa welcomed everyone to the meeting. Each participant gave their name, organization, and role in power lines geospatial information for his or her organization.

**II. Rules of engagement**

Theresa explained the use of table name cards: cards can be turned on their sides instead of raising hands or speaking out of turn.

**III. A vision for power lines data**

Theresa gave a presentation describing the vision held by the Oregon Geospatial Enterprise Office for geospatial data collaboration and a spatial data infrastructure for Oregon. The take home messages were:

- a. Data sharing is the most critical element for consistent service provision to clients, customers, and citizens.
- b. Consistent service provision is best provided through a shared approach to data standardization, development, and maintenance.
- c. A shared approach may be more challenging and time consuming, but the benefits are more widespread.

**IV. Who presents first?**

Micah volunteered to present first.

**V. Panel presentations #1: Visions for geospatial data sharing, security, and access**

Three panelists provided short informational presentations. Each provided their organization's vision for geospatial data, rationale for the vision, and processes in place to support that vision.

**Micah Babinski, Bureau of Land Management**

Vision for geospatial data

- o To accomplish geospatial data work collaboratively
- o Use 30+ data standards to ensure high quality data
- o Geospatial data provides necessary information to support decisions, asset inventories, and asset management. Examples of assets: buildings, roads, fences

#### Rationale

- The data are used in many processes, therefore collaborative data processes facilitate their usefulness (see above).

#### Processes in place to achieve vision

- BLM works to be a partner and collaborator in the GIS community.
- Micah showed an organizational chart illustrating district/field office levels and state office levels. The organization chart provided insight into the complexity of the BLM organization, and helped demonstrate why BLM GIS personnel must collaborate to accomplish geospatial data needs.
- Micah also briefly discussed the need for BLM to collaborate with external stakeholders as a result of applicable laws, BLM policies known as Instructional Memos (IMs), and Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) policies and guidelines.

#### **Brian Fritz, PacifiCorp**

##### Vision for geospatial data

- PacifiCorp shares [incomplete] data by request. Data provided are not survey grade. At no time does PacifiCorp provide access to its computer network/provide direct access to the data on network. Company has strict policies around network access.

#### Rationale

- Infrastructure and data at transmission level is not very dynamic.
- Distribution line data, on the other hand, is very dynamic. Typically changes are tied to cities and improvements within cities. Distribution line changes are often tied to the economy, with more activity during economic expansion. For example, if a city experiences significant job growth, there's a need to add distribution lines to serve new population.

#### Processes in place to achieve vision

- Share data by request, however, data does not contain all assets or attributes. Currently experience about 1,200 data requests annually -- usually related to poles and wires. Requests tend to be associated with specific projects. Many projects are "joint-use" projects and are [geographically] isolated. (data format: KMZ files)

Have concerns about the security for data in a government-administered system.

#### **Don Pettit, Department of Environmental Quality**

##### Vision for geospatial data sharing

- To have access to the data that we need for emergency planning and response

#### Rationale

- Don explained that having access to [geospatial, including power lines] data helps us to understand the dangers and risks that could exist in the presence of an emergency situation.
- Among the uses of geospatial data is facilitating DEQ to inform constituents about situations and organizing responses. Organizing responses requires rapid access to the needed data.
- DEQ hasn't used power line data in the past, but Don noted that recent events could have been facilitated by access to the data.
- At the end of the day, DEQ wants to have required data when it's needed.

Processes in place to achieve vision

- Don, with the Preparedness Framework Implementation Team (Prep-FIT) developed a collection of geospatial data for planning and response.
- The data can be accessed via the Oregon Spatial Data Library and using [RAPTOR](#) (Real-Time Assessment and Planning Tool for ORegon). Public and secure versions of the data are available via RAPTOR.
- Don did a quick live demonstration of RAPTOR and [ERMA](#) (Environmental Response Management Application), showing the sign-on for responders, which has higher security access than the public site, but does not provide the highest level of access. ERMA was developed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Would like to have the data security documentation from the Power Lines WG vetted more widely

### **Discussion**

After the panelists presented their perspectives, a few points, questions, and concerns were raised.

- PUC has worked hard to be positioned to be a conduit to the utilities (e.g., for response). A concern is that users will not understand the data and therefore not use it appropriately.
- PUC noted that it should be alerted in emergency situations that required state-level coordination. (Note: At the meeting this point was presented with a broader scope: that all emergencies [where utilities are or could be involved] should be brought to PUC. The point was clarified in an email following the meeting.)
- It will be useful to better understand the fears surrounding geospatial data.
- Utilities will not participate in an initiative where the State of Oregon would share their proprietary data with the general public.
- Sharing of power lines, other utilities, and other critical infrastructure data with the general public is off the table.
- What is the definition of critical infrastructure according to Oregon statute?
- Each utility is using guidelines from NERC, FERC, WEC and interprets them and applies those interpretations. So the interpretations are varied among utilities.
- How can we all protect the public? → this is the starting place, the common “care” for the group.
- Expand the efforts to define what is meant by “good data sharing policy.”

### **VI. Panel presentations #2: What does “data access” mean?**

This agenda item was subsumed by the discussion that followed the first panel presentations, and transitioned to topics best addressed through the Facilitated Discussion method.

### **VII. Facilitated discussion**

Facilitated discussion is a method that allows participants to provide input to a discussion by directing comments to the facilitator. The facilitator organizes the comments into four categories: *problems*, *concerns*, *data*, and *solutions*. Following the discussion, the facilitator will develop a mind map to provide additional insights into the connections between and among comments that can be used to review and correct recorded concepts, refine points, and formulate future action items and work plans. The mind map will be distributed by the end of June.