

Issue 36 April 2024

# NSRS Modernization News

For all issues of **NSRS Modernization News**, visit:  
[geodesy.noaa.gov/datums/newdatums/TrackOurProgress.shtml](https://geodesy.noaa.gov/datums/newdatums/TrackOurProgress.shtml)

## Farewell to NGS Director Blackwell

The Modernization of the NSRS has been underway for 17 years, and for 15 of those years, NGS has been led by Ms. Juliana Blackwell. As Director, she supported, encouraged, and facilitated Modernization in so many ways small and large. It is impossible to quantify how important she has been to this ongoing effort. On March 29, Director Blackwell retired from NGS. We wish her well in her retirement. She will truly be missed.

## Clarifying Roll-out and Testing of the Modernized NSRS

NGS operates three websites. The official website is [geodesy.noaa.gov](https://geodesy.noaa.gov). This website holds the official NSRS data and tools. This will remain true through the phased roll-out and testing of the Modernized NSRS.

During the phased-rollout and testing, each component of the Modernized NSRS will be put on the NGS Beta website ([beta.ngs.noaa.gov](https://beta.ngs.noaa.gov)). This will begin with GEOID2022 in the summer of 2024, and will continue into 2025. As each component is rolled-out, users may test it. After all components are rolled-out, a final six-month testing period will commence, at the end of which the Federal Geodetic Control Subcommittee will be asked to vote to make the Modernized NSRS the official NSRS of the nation. When that happens (likely in early 2026), the current NSRS will be moved off of the official NGS website (to some other location, TBD), and the Modernized NSRS will be moved from the Beta website to the official website. There will then be a brief overlap period, after which the current NSRS

data and tools will be formally removed from service. During the roll-out and testing, NGS will occasionally release some data or tool on a third website, the Alpha website ([alpha.ngs.noaa.gov](https://alpha.ngs.noaa.gov)). Alpha releases will be incomplete, possibly inaccurate, and are not authoritative. They are purely for an early glimpse into future releases.

## GEOID2022 on Alpha

The geoid teams of the USA, Canada, and Mexico have finalized the software which will create GEOID2022, and an alpha version of GEOID2022 has been created from it. This model is an *alpha*, because it was finalized before GRAV-D data collection was completed. Readers interested in this alpha release of GEOID2022 may access it here: <https://alpha.ngs.noaa.gov/GEOID2022/> Later this year, the official release of GEOID2022 will occur on the NGS Beta website.

## Joint NGS/CGS Adoption of GGXF for Gridded Geodetic Products

NGS and the Canadian Geodetic Survey are jointly adopting the Open Geospatial Consortium's [Gridded Geodetic data eXchange Format \(GGXF\)](#) as our distribution format for gridded geodetic files. For NGS, this will begin with our NSRS Modernization products but will also mean back-translating older files as time allows. This means that every grid NGS releases to the public with the Modernized NSRS will be in GGXF at a minimum; but it does not preclude our distributing grids in additional formats.