



August 24, 2001

Governor's Council on Geographic Information
658 Cedar Street
St. Paul, Minnesota, 55155

Dear Council Members:

I am writing to recommend the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Metropolitan Area Ground Water Project for a Certificate of Commendation from the Governor's Council.

The Metropolitan Ground Water Project has been a successful multi-year, multi-agency project to build a regionwide ground water flow model for the Twin Cities that can be used, and built upon, by users at many levels. An Advisory Team made up of hydrologists from all levels of government as well as the private sector met over several years to help develop the project, and continues to meet to refine the model and its underlying data sets.

The Land Management Information Center (LMIC) at Minnesota Planning is not a direct user of the model but staff have participated in the Metropolitan Area Groundwater Advisory Workgroup since its inception. From the beginning of this project, there was always the stated intent to make both the model and the supporting data available to the modeling community. This was achieved through distribution of a CD and through the Metro Model website. While early meetings presented technical information about the construction of the model and the supporting datasets, later meetings have focused on the distribution and use of the model. Non-MPCA users were encouraged to use the model, to take the supporting data, densify the data to build more localized models, and submit the new information back to MPCA for redistribution. Projects showcased have included the construction of denser flow models by cities or counties, flow modeling for designing remedial actions in Voluntary Investigation and Cleanup (VIC) projects, and evaluating the impacts of pumping.

While the model itself and the data supporting it are being extensively used, the data is also of value to non-modelers. The LMIC Data Services section has on several occasions referred inquiries to the MPCA site for access to the regionalized metropolitan geology data sets created for this project. PCA cooperated with LMIC in documenting the Metro Model and data sets to make them more visible to the GIS community through the GeoGateway Search Tool.

LMIC applauds the outcomes of the Metropolitan Ground Water Project and wishes to recommend this project highly for a Certificate of Commendation from the Governor's Council.

Sincerely,

David Arbeit, Ph.D.
Director
Land Management Information Center

658 Cedar St.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Telephone:
651-296-1211

Facsimile:
651-296-1212

TTY:
800-627-3529

www.lmic.state.mn.us

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