



Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

August 29, 2001

Minnesota Governor's Council on Geographic Information
Minnesota Planning/LMIC
658 Cedar Street
Room 300
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor's Council Members:

This is a letter of support for nominating the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's (MPCA) Metropolitan Area Groundwater Model Project (Metro Model) for a Certificate of Commendation.

The Metro Model staff use the technology of the Internet through the MPCA's Web site to distribute their data to a broad audience. The Metro Model Web page was designed for easy and quick use by a wide variety of visitors, from high school students to ground water professionals. Although the primary intended users of this information include planners, government agencies and private consultants, the Internet allows it to be a widely available public resource.

The Metro Model Web page allows visitors instant access to a variety of downloadable information, including: project reports, model files, and database files and maps. The files are available in formats that are appropriate for the user's applications, including .pdf, .zip, .dat, and .txt. Instant availability to Metro Model data, along with information on how it was developed and instructions on how to use it, increases its value to users.

In the past 12 months (from July 2000 to July 2001), the Metro Model Web page has had an average of 200 page views per month. Downloadable files include: 6 reports, 4 model dataset files, 14 shape files representing bedrock elevation sand thickness and groundwater contours, and 24 GIS-ready database files containing groundwater elevation calibration data, and representations of glacial drift sand content. All GIS files are accompanied by appropriate legend files to assist the users in readily displaying the data.

One of the main objectives of the Minnesota Governor's Council on Geographic Information historically has been the sharing of data among a wide audience. The Metro Model Web page helps achieve this goal. The high quality of the information and availability of the Metro Model staff to answer questions by users only accentuates the value of the Metro Model Web page.

I hope you consider the Metro Model as a deserved recipient of the Certificate of Commendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Wieland".

Andrea Wieland, MPCA Web Designer

Metro Model Web Page: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/groundwater/metromodel.html>

520 Lafayette Rd. N., St. Paul, MN 55155-4194; (612) 296-6300 (Voice); (612) 282-5332 (TTY)

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