



Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

August 29, 2001

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

Dear Council Members:

We are pleased to nominate the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) for a Certificate of Commendation by the Governor's Council on Geographic Information for development and application of the GIS-based Twin Cities Area Metropolitan Groundwater Model (Metro Model). Staff developed the Metro Model for use both within and outside of the MPCA. End-users include geologists and groundwater scientists from both public and private sectors.

The Metro Model was developed in a standardized GIS environment that has greatly broadened the applicability of the project work products. Furthermore, GIS is an integral part of displaying the output and results of project applications. We believe that the goals established for the Council's Certificate of Commendation match the purpose and intended use of the Metro Model. Project end products include GIS-based supporting database files, shape files, graphic coverages, and datasets that are readily available free of charge from the project website (<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/groundwater/metromodel.html>) or on a CD-ROM. Many end-users of the Metro Model gained their first experience in using GIS by applying Metro Model GIS resources.

We are enclosing three copies of the nomination with this letter. The nomination includes letters of support. Although a small number of letters were prepared explicitly for this nomination, fourteen letters are also included that were originally prepared in support of a previous award nomination. In the interest of saving time and money and avoiding duplication of effort, they are also included in this nomination with the express permission of their authors. Please feel free to contact any of the authors as references to this project. Their e-mail addresses and phone numbers are provided.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John K. Seaberg
Environmental Data, Information
& Reporting (EDIR) Section
Environmental Outcomes (EO) Division

Andrew R. Streitz
EDIR Section
EO Division

Douglas D. Hansen
EDIR Section
EO Division

JKS/ARS/DDH:jac

Enclosures