

# Public Access to Geospatial Representations of Local Government Utility Data

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# Survey

- Purpose
  - Determine local jurisdictions that own/operate utilities
  - Determine public access to those utility geospatial data
  - Learn about local data distribution and/or non-disclosure agreements
- Survey sent via Listservs: NCGIS, NCLGISA, NCPMA, NC-APWA, NC Managers
- Survey open for responses mid-Nov to Dec 31, 2018
- Total of 63 Responses
  - Municipality - 47.6%
  - County - 36.5%
  - Regional Organization (Council of Government) - 15.9%

# Water & Sewer

	Geospatial Representations	Public Download	Only by Request	Distributed Outside of Government Entity	Written Policy Regarding Distribution of this Data
<b>Water</b>					
Service Areas	Yes (71.7%)	No (75%)	Yes (53.3%) No (28.3%)	Yes (45%) No (43.3%)	No (86.7%)
Water Distribution Pipes	Yes (76.7%)				
Water Plant Locations	Yes (61.7%)				
Water Pumping Stations	Yes (63.3%)				
Water Hydrants	Yes (86.7%)				
<b>Sewer</b>					
Service Areas	Yes (70%)	No (70%)	Yes (46.7%) No (28.3%)	Yes (43.3%) No (40%)	No (85%)
Public Sewer Pipes	Yes (70%)				
Wastewater Treatment Plant Locations	Yes (65%)				
Sewer Pumping Stations	Yes (68.3%)				

# Electric - Municipality

- Does your municipality own and operate an electric utility ?
  - Yes (66.7%)
- Distribute the geospatial data to the public?
  - No (70%)
- Is there a written policy for data distribution for electric utility infrastructure?
  - No (33.3%)
  - Yes - less than 1%
    - Majority answered NA

# Electric - County

- Does one or more municipalities in your county own and operate an electric utility ?
  - Yes (30.4%)
- If yes, are you able to obtain geospatial representations of that data?
  - No (26.1%)
  - Yes (13%)
    - Majority answered NA
- Are you able to obtain geospatial representation of any part of the electric utility infrastructure for county purposes?
  - Yes (26.1%)
  - No (30.4%)
  - NA (43.5%)

# All - Data Sharing Agreement

- Do you have any formal data sharing agreement with internal or external entities?
  - No (74.6%)
  - Yes (14.3%)



# The Arguments

## For Public Access

There should be greater access to utility information at some level of detail. The knee-jerk reaction after 9/11/01 to prohibit unrestricted access to any utility data is cumbersome and likely avoids any appreciable threat to the utility networks. Sensitive information should always be filtered, but access to basic info regarding water or sewer line service to a parcel should not be a multi-level process, costing additional time and money to obtain.

## Against Public Access

Utilities data security is a critical component of homeland security. The distribution of Utilities GIS data would be a risk to the public.

Public utilities data should be closely held to prevent tampering or terrorist attacks on these crucial systems.