

CHARTER

North Carolina Board on Geographic Names

Background

The North Carolina Board on Geographic Names (NC BGN) is a standing committee of the Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee (SMAC), which operates under the authority of the North Carolina Geographic Information Coordinating Council (GICC).

The US Board on Geographic Names (US BGN) serves the Federal Government and the public as a central authority to which all naming issues, inquiries, and proposals can be directed. The NC BGN is recognized by the US BGN as the State Names Authority to consult with concerning recommendations for geographic name changes.

The [Geographic Names Information System](#) (GNIS) contains information about the proper names for places, features, and areas in the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the territories and outlying areas of the United States, including Antarctica. The GNIS has been named as the official repository for North Carolina place names by the GICC.

Duties of NC Board on Geographic Names

The NC BGN will review and document name-change proposals (including name proponent-submitted documentation, rationale, etc.) as forwarded directly from the US BGN, and seek input from state, local, and/or tribal entities when appropriate.

The NC BGN will meet as needed and report its naming recommendations at a quarterly meeting of the SMAC. Upon SMAC approval of the NC BGN recommendations, the Chair of the NC BGN will communicate the decisions on the proposed names to the US BGN.

Appointment of the NC BGN Chair

The NC BGN Chair will be appointed by the Chair of the GICC for a period of two years. The NC BGN Chair can be reappointed.

Committee Membership

The NC BGN includes members from the following State agencies/entities. Members will serve a 2-year term and can be reappointed.

State Agency/Entity	Appointed By
GICC Local Government Committee (LGC)	LGC Chair
NC Dept. of Environmental Quality – Division of Water Resources	GICC Dept. of Environmental Quality member
NC Dept. of Environmental Quality – NC Geological Survey	GICC Dept. of Environmental Quality member
NC Dept. of Natural and Cultural Resources	GICC Dept. of Natural and Cultural Resources member
NC Dept. of Transportation	GICC Dept. of Transportation member
UNC System	GICC UNC System member

Other Members

The GICC Chair, at the request of the NC BGN Chair, may appoint up to two additional voting members. These members will serve at 2-year term and can be reappointed.