



# United States Department of the Interior

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
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## Memorandum

To: Chief, National Mapping Division  
From: Acting Chief, EROS Data Center  
Subject: Name Change for the EROS Data Center (EDC)

Per our discussion this morning on the subject of a possible name change for EDC, I would summarize EDC Senior Staff comments as follows:

1. If we change the name, we wish it to be a significant and meaningful change that reflects our responsibilities to the Division, to the Survey, to DOI, as a WDC-A, as the LPDAAC, to UNEP, etc. (i.e., Earth Observation Data Center seems too simplistic).
2. Be advised that "EROS" is now viewed nationally and internationally not as an acronym but as a name. "EDC" is the recognized acronym--and to change our name will cause considerable confusion both nationally and internationally.
3. Words that should be considered in a new name include "Land", "Remote Sensing", "Science", "World", "Global", and "National". After considerable debate, we feel that "National" should be included in a proposed new name--as in NASA's NSSDC, NOAA's NGDC and NCDC, and DOE's NORL.
4. A possible problem may arise with NASA's National Space Sciences Data Center, as its role (and name) changes in the near future.
5. Finally, we feel strongly that we need more than just endorsement from DOI on this matter; instead we need DOI's enthusiastic support (maybe Knute Knudson could provide some help)--which may involve reassessing the proper timing for making a name change (e.g., coincident with the ground breaking for the building addition or with the official opening of the addition).

If you wish to discuss this topic further, please do not hesitate to call me.

  
Donald T. Lauer