



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

Department of Revenue
State Tax Department


Earl Ray Tomblin
Governor

Craig A. Griffith
State Tax Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

August 11, 2011

TO: All Property Tax Division Employees

FROM: Pat A. White, Assistant Director 
Property Tax Division

RE: Restriction of the Sale of Cadastral GIS Data

This notification is to inform all pertinent parties of the West Virginia Property Tax Division's (PTD) policy regarding the sale of cadastral GIS data:

Effective immediately and until further notice, PTD will no longer sell cadastral GIS data (ArcGIS Shapefiles, MapInfo files, etc.) without first receiving written permission from the County Assessor(s) to do so.

Over the past few years, there has been increasing concern from the county assessors about the availability of, and restrictions placed upon, their cadastral GIS data. Since GIS technology is relatively new to West Virginia, though rapidly growing in its use, rules and guidelines governing the use and distribution of this data have not been adopted into West Virginia Code. As a result, many county assessors have expressed the desire for all sales of their county's cadastral GIS data to take place only at the county level to ensure all controls and restrictions deemed appropriate by the county are maintained.

Efforts are underway, however, by means of a Tax Map Subcommittee of the Property Valuation Training and Procedures Commission, to update WV Procedural Rule §189-3, *Statewide Procedures for the Maintenance and Publishing of Surface Tax Maps*, to incorporate more specific policy regarding GIS data handling procedures. Developments are also being made, in cooperation with the West Virginia Office of GIS Coordination, the Rahall Appalachian Transportation Institute, and numerous stakeholders throughout the governmental, public, and private sectors in West Virginia, in the creation of a Statewide Cadastral Business Plan to help make determinations and make policy concerning the creation, sale, reproduction, and distribution of cadastral data.

To All Property Tax Division Employees
August 11, 2011
Page Two

All requests for the purchase of cadastral GIS data should be forwarded to the respective county assessor's office for which the request has been made. At such a time that sufficient policy is in place to govern cadastral GIS data handling, notification will be provided and this policy will be adjusted accordingly.

Should you have questions or concerns regarding this matter, please advise.

PAW/aj

cc: All County Assessors
State of West Virginia