



STATE OF IDAHO

BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS

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November 14, 2019

Board statement regarding Federal Register Docket NIST-2019-0003, Deprecation of the U.S. survey foot

The Idaho Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors supports the effort to discontinue use of the U.S. survey foot in future NGS products. The Board does not agree with the decision to use the generic term "foot" moving forward.

The NGS correctly states that two definitions for the foot has been a source of confusion. Adopting a single definition concurrent with the next generation of datums is appropriate. Given the staggering amount of legacy data in existence, it is imperative we retain the well-established naming convention for the unit being adopted. Stripping the qualifier "international" from the term "international foot" will create an entirely new source of confusion. Users will be left to guess which foot is being used and vendors will undoubtedly take divergent tracks on how to deal with the change.

The Board respectfully requests NIST and NGS retain the titles "international foot" for the unit being adopted and "U.S. survey foot" for legacy applications.

For the Board,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. A. Judge".

Thomas A. Judge, PLS, CFedS

Deputy Director for Surveying

Idaho Board of PE & PLS