



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Soil
Conservation
Service

National Soil Survey Center
Federal Building, Room 152
100 Centennial Mall North
Lincoln, NE 68508-3866

Subject: SOI- NASIS Workshop

Date: October 25, 1994

To: Steering Team
Soil Survey Division

File Code: 430

During the recent NASIS workshop in Ft. Worth, I was charged by the group to relay the following issue to you. The issue concerns the status of the National Standard.

We as presenters at the workshop did not bring up the subject, the state representatives did. The question was asked during Friday morning's question period, "What is the status of the National Standard, and what is it going to look like?"

* || This question generated a considerable amount of discussion. The states feel that they have been kept in the dark on this issue, and since they will be the primary user, they are not too happy about it. An additional concern is that it was stated that the AMES mainframe is scheduled to go off-line in mid-1996, and the National Standard is shown on the NASIS timeline, as shown by Ken Harward, in Release 4.0 (Oct. 1997). What will they be able to do in the interim? || *

I discussed some of the options that have been discussed as possible ways to develop the National Standard and its contents.

The group offered to take a vote. The result was unanimous that it is time to quit talking about this and get something set up. They feel that five or six years worth of discussion is enough.

They realize that most any change from our present OSED and SIR database will result in some work on their part, but feel that it is necessary. The group seemed to feel that if a change is made, go to a fully tabular database. They were not too excited about chopping up the OSED into blocks of text as an intermediate step. They failed to see any advantage this would have over the current OSED text file.

Jim

JIM R. FORTNER
Soil Scientist
Mail Stop 33

1994-22

