GeoBase

National Hydro Network

Building on Common Ground

The National Hydro Network (NHN) describes and models features of the inland surface-water system of Canada. It is produced by federal, provincial and territorial governments, with the support of GeoConnections. NHN data conform to a national data model and standard agreed to by the Canadian Council on Geomatics.

Uses

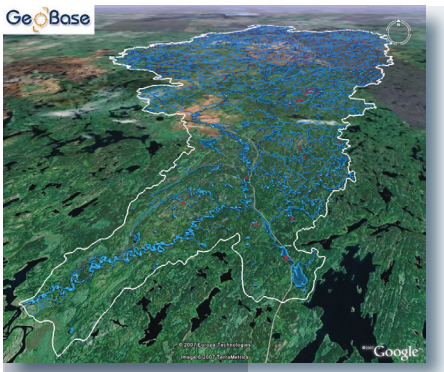
The NHN enables water flow analysis that will, in turn, aid in the management of watersheds and the species that live in them. In emergency situations such as flooding or toxic spills, NHN data can be used to monitor conditions and to assist decision-making processes to minimize flood damage or optimize control of a spill. For planning, the NHN can be used to decide where to most effectively place a dam or power plant. NHN data can also be an important tool in managing and monitoring drinking water and fresh water supplies.

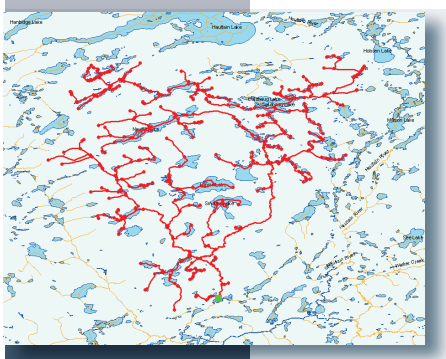
Characteristics

The NHN is represented by geospatial data describing:

- hydro features, such as lakes, reservoirs, rivers, streams, canals and islands
- the directional flow of surface water by a linear network
- the toponymy (geographical names) of hydro features

NHN geospatial data are structured by drainage areas.





Data formats

NHN datasets are available for download in the following formats:

- GML™
- Shapefile™
- KML™

Technical specifications are published on the GeoBase website.

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