National Railway Network (NRWN)

2015-10-05

Natural Resources Canada
Earth and Sciences Sector
Canada Centre for Mapping and Earth Observation

Canadä

Copyright notice

RELEASES HISTORY

Date	Description
2015-10-05	Updating the link Nova Scotia Geographic Information Services
2015-08-31	Updating links
2015-02-10	Adding direct FTP link to download the data and updating links for partners.
2014-09-01	Original edition

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What is GeoBase?

GeoBase is a federal, provincial and territorial government initiative that is overseen by the Canadian Council on Geomatics (CCOG). It is undertaken to ensure the provision of, and access to, a common, up-to-date and maintained base of quality geospatial data for all of Canada. Through GeoBase, users with an interest in the field of geomatics have access to quality geospatial information at no cost and with unrestricted use. More on GeoBase initiative.

Description

The National Railway Network (NRWN) product contains quality geospatial data (current, accurate, and consistent) of Canadian railway phenomena (including ferry connection for the purpose of railway network continuity).

The methodology that will be used to maintain the NRWN data has yet to be defined. However, it will likely be done within the framework of partnership agreements with closest to source bodies (government agencies and operators of the railway network) capable of offering adequate and current representations of the railway phenomena.

Data produced form a homogeneous and standardized view of the entire Canadian territory.

The NRWN conceptual model was elaborated in collaboration with interested data providers and is adopted by the Canadian Council on Geomatics (CCOG). The ISO 14825 - *Intelligent transport systems - Geographic Data Files (GDF) - Overall data specification* standard served as a guide for the elaboration of the NRWN conceptual model and feature catalogue. The NRWN vocabulary used (class names, attribute names and definitions) largely conforms to the ISO 14825 and to the terminology used by Transport Canada.

Each NRWN product dataset (distributed by province or territory) is considered to be presenting a complete coverage for a given province or territory.

NRWN datasets coming from authoritative data sources will be posted gradually over the coming months. Users will be kept informed of available GeoBase NRWN releases in Release Notes document.

Download the **NRWN Fact Sheet** [pdf 366 KB]

Documentation

National Railway Network Standards (Conceptual description)
- National Railway Network, **Conceptual Data Model**, Edition 1.0 [pdf 106 KB]

National Railway Network Product (Data description)
- National Railway Network, **Data Product Specifications**, Edition 1.0 [pdf 165 KB]
- National Railway Network, **Feature Catalogue**, Edition 1.0 [pdf 298 KB]
- National Railway Network, **Product Distribution Formats**, Edition 1.0 [pdf 148 KB]

National Vector Data
- National Railway Network, **Identification Rules And Change Management**, Edition 1.0 [pdf 2168 KB]

Release Notes, [pdf file]

Metadata

Metadata are provided with each dataset. Among other, the validity date and the planimetric accuracy are shown in this file.

Use and Restrictions

Use of the GeoBase data is subject to the Open Government Licence – Canada.

Data Formats

NRWN datasets are available in:

- GML (Geography Markup Language)
- ESRI Shapefiles
- KML (Keyhole Markup Language) for Google Earth

Editing or Viewing Free Software

It is possible to see data using free software, see the question 'How can I open a raster or vector dataset if I do not have a GIS software?' in the GeoGratis FAQ section.

National Railway Network Update Status

Report a data observation

In order to improve the quality of the NRWN datasets, an observation reporting process is provided by Natural Resources Canada. An Observation on data or metadata that do not meet the product's standards and specifications will be treated as a Data Discrepancy. The closest to source providers have agreed to invite users of the NRWN data to communicate directly to them all observations related to their dataset. You have any suggestions or comments regarding the National Hydro Network (NHN) product, please send it at: geoginfo@NRCan.gc.ca.

Download datasets available

11 datasets available

In the GeoGratis search tool, insert, if you know, the location in the "Geographic Location" section, insert in the "Subject Keywords" section "nrwn", click on "Data (vector, tabular, etc.)", and finally click on "Search". You can reduce the number of products found by zooming on the map in the area of interest and click on the "Redo Search with Map Extent" option available under the map. You can also go directly to the list of datasets in the National Railway Network GeoGratis API. Direct FTP link: National Railway Network. For more information about the GeoGratis Search tool, see the question "How do I conduct a search in the GeoGratis tool?" in the GeoGratis FAQ.

View

Navigate through Toporama tool to create your own views of the data.

National Railway Network Partners

The network of partners considered to be 'closest to the source' providers now embarked in the GeoBase NRWN initiative consists of federal, provincial, and territorial departments as well as interested railway network operators.

National Railway Network Maintenance

Maintenance of the NRWN data will be done within the framework of agreements, through partnerships with intergovernmental (federal, provincial, and territorial) and interested operators of the railway network, identified as being the closest to source and capable of offering adequate and current representations of the railway phenomena.

In order to help NRWN data users in their management of the various update releases, updates will be packaged and distributed by change effects (addition, retirement, modification, confirmation). By proceeding in this fashion, identification rules as well as methods for classifying the changes are established.

Canadian Railway Companies
CN
> Canadian National
VIA Rail Canada
> VIA Rail Canada
Provincial and Territorial Agencies
British Columbia
> Integrated Resource Operations - GeoBC
Saskatchewan
> Information Services Corporation
Manitoba
> Manitoba Land Initiative
Ontario
> Land Information Ontario
Nova Scotia
> Geographic Information Services
New Brunswick
> Service Nouveau-Brunswick
Yukon
> Government of Yukon
Northwest Territories
> Northwest Territories Centre for Geomatics

Federal Agencies
Natural Resources Canada
> Earth Sciences
Transport Canada
> Economic Analysis Directorate
Transport Canada
> Rail Safety Directorate
Collaborator
Railway Association of Canada (RAC)
> Railway Association of Canada

Contact us

For answers to technical questions, please consult the Frequently Asked Questions section. In addition, the content of metadata files delivered with digital data can provide answers to most of your questions.

If you do not find answers to your questions or to submit your comments, suggestions and ideas about **GeoGratis**. Please contact us using one of the methods below:

- **By email at:** geoginfo@nrcan.gc.ca

- **By telephone: +01-819-564-4857 / 1-800-661-2638 (Canada and USA)**

Service Standards

The service standards are guidelines intended to ensure a uniform service to our customers. Service must be fast, reliable and of quality. The service is examined and improved regularly, based on customers' feedback.

We are committed to:

- Answer to users during business hours: from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM and from 1:00 PM to 4:30 PM (Eastern Time).

- Respond to inquiries within 2 working days. When applicable, follow up on request within the period agreed with the user.

- Insure the availability of our website 90% of the time on a monthly basis, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.