

Federal Service for State Registration, Cadastre and Cartography

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Works on the national standardization of geographical names of the Russian Federation.

Legislation of the Russian Federation in the field of geographical names

National institutions working in the field of standardization of geographical names

- The Ministry of Economic Development and Federal Service of State Registration, Cadastre and Cartography (Rosreestr) are the authorized federal executive authorities in the field of geographical names.
- The Ministry of Economic Development is imposed with a responsibility to frame up and implement the state policy as well as normative and legal regulation of geodesy and cartography.

- Rosreestr develops and maintains the State Catalogue of Geographical Names, provides for standardization of geographical names in Russian, and prepares experts reports for proposals on naming and renaming of geographical objects.
- Activities in the sphere of geographic feature names are implemented by Rosreestr jointly with the other executive authorities within their competence.
- In some subjects of the Russian Federation, toponymic commissions were organized to regulate use of geographical names of urban objects, their registration and conservation as a constituent part of historical and cultural heritage.
- One of these commissions works in the Moscow branch of the Russian Geographical Society. In 2015, the Commission organized Students' conference on toponymy.

Legal base on the setting up, normalization and implementation of geographic names

- Legal foundations for naming and renaming of geographical objects as well as for standardization, use, registration, and storage of geographical names are set by the Federal Law № 152-FZ 'On names of geographical objects' that was passed on December 18, 1997.
- Since the Federal Law as of 18.12.1997 No. 152-FZ "On geographic features names" has been implemented, 1417 geographic feature names have been set up on the grounds of Rosreestr's expert conclusions on received proposals. At the same time more than 2200 proposals were considered.
- In 2012, the Federal Law 'On ratifying amendments to the Federal Law 'On names of geographical objects' was adopted to refine some regulations of the Federal Law 'On names of geographical objects', make changes in a procedure of submitting proposals on naming and renaming of geographical objects, and detail some statements related to financing of operations in the field of geographical names.

- On November 15, 2012, the Government of the Russian Federation adopted the Decree 'On procedure of coordination of proposals on naming of some geographical objects or on renaming of these objects'. The Decree sets a procedure to coordinate proposals on naming of railway stations, sea and river ports, airports, objects within inland waters, territorial sea, continental shelf and exclusive economic zone of the Russian Federation as well as of features discovered or determined by the Russian explorers in the World Ocean and Antarctica, and on renaming of these objects between all federal executive bodies concerned.
- After receiving the proposals Rosreestr sends them for consideration to the Russian Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Natural Resources and others.

- Federal State Budgetary Institution "Federal Scientific and Research Centre of Geodesy, Cartography and Spatial Data Infrastructure" (FSBI "Centre of Geodesy, Cartography and SDI") was established in accordance with the Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation as of 19.02.2013 No. 220-r.
 - Main objective of the institution is to implement geodetic and mapping activities of the federal level, including implementation of activities on creation of the State Catalogue and its maintenance.

- In 2013, the Federal Law 'On federal address system and on introducing amendments into the Federal Law "On basic principles of local self-government in the Russian Federation" was adopted. The Law regulates relations which emerge in connection with introduction of the state address registry as well as use of the addresses available in it.
- The subjects of the Russian Federation independently make solutions on naming and renaming of urban objects (streets, squares, parks etc.) Local administrations are empowered to assign addresses to addressing objects.
- Main novations of the federal law are to establish obligations of the local self-government authorities to insert into Federal Informational Address System (FIAS) data about addresses as well as to use the FIAS data while providing public and municipal services.
- FSBI "Centre of Geodesy, Cartography and SDI" in accordance with the established order of the interdepartmental informational interaction provides to the FIAS operator Federal Tax Service with the information about the insertion of the geographic feature names or renamed geographic features used for address assignment to the State Catalogue within three days from the date of the insertion.

- Rules of address assignment, change and cancellation are established by the Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation as of 19.11.2014 No. 1221.
- Change of an address of a feature in case of changing names and borders of subjects of the Russian Federation, municipalities and settlements is implemented on the basis of data in the State Catalogue of Geographic Names and State Register of Municipalities of the Russian Federation, provided by Federal Tax Service.
- Names of settlements in the address structure shall be in accordance with the respective names, maintained in the State Catalogue of Geographic Names.

In 2014 – 2015 several legal acts were adopted in order to implement the Federal Law "On geographic feature names":

1. Order of the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation as of 27.03.2014 No. 171 "On approval of the Procedure for expertise of proposals on geographic feature naming and renaming as well as issuance of conclusions on these proposals".

Rules for expertise, implemented by Rosreestr as well as list of needed for expertise documents and materials are determined. Terms of proposal expertise implementation, requirements for conclusions on the proposals as well as conditions for failure to implement the expertise are established.

Positive expertise conclusions of Rosreestr are registered and sent to the Ministry of Economic Development jointly with the respective draft Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation.

2. Order of the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation as of 27.03.2014 No. 172 "On approval of the Procedure for registration and maintenance of geographic feature names, publication of dictionaries and gazetteers of geographic feature names as well as implementation of activities on creation of the State Catalogue of Geographic Names and its maintenance".

Rules for registration and maintenance of geographic feature names on the territory of the Russian Federation, continental shelf and the exclusive economic zone of the Russian Federation and geographic features, discovered or revealed by Russian researchers within the high seas, Antarctica, the publication of dictionaries and gazetteers, and implementation of activities on creation of the State Catalogue of Geographic Names are determined.

- 3. The Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation as of 20.05.1999 No. 554 "On measures for implementation of the Federal Law "On geographic feature names" and the Decree as of 03.06.2015 No. 487, that determined regulation on creation of the State Catalogue of Geographic Names, ceased to be in force.
- 4. At this period the Order of the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation as of 29.05.2015 No. 322 "On approval of the Procedure for identification of the existing geographic feature names" has been adopted and is being registered in the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation. The Order determines rules for identification of the existing geographic feature names, sources as a basis for the identification.

According to the Procedure, whether results of identification show that a geographic feature name:

- was given in accordance with the legislation, it should be registered and maintained in the State Catalogue of Geographic Names within the procedure, determined by the Order of the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation as of 27.03.2014 No. 172;
- is used with infringement of the Russian legislation, the respective authority shall initiated a case on an administrative offence in accordance with the Article 19.10 of Code of Administrative Offences of the Russian Federation

- Legal acts in the sphere of geographic feature names are published in the Rosreestr's official web-page <u>https://rosreestr.ru</u>
- The work on redrafting of instructions on the Russian transliteration of geographical names from the languages of the peoples of the Russian Federation has been organised. Draft legal acts were developed: rules for the transliteration of geographic feature names from Ossetian, Nogayian, Buryatian, Bashkirian, Tatarian languages to Russian language.
- The drafts shall be considered by the respective subjects of the Russian Federation.

Works on creation of national databases of geographical names

- In pursuance of the Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation, development and maintenance of the State Catalogue of Geographical Names is entrusted to the newly organized budgetary state institution 'Federal scientific and technical center of geodesy, cartography and infrastructure of spatial data'.
- More than 780,000 geographical names of the Russian Federation and accompanying information were input into the State Catalogue. The information was taken from normative acts, topographic maps at scale 1:100,000, reference-books, gazetteers and other sources.

- The current task is to provide reliable and valid information on geographical names and to make the Catalogue to meet the requirements set for basic state information resources. The data input into the State Catalogue are submitted to an approval of the government bodies in appropriate subjects of the Russian Federation. It is planned to populate the State Catalogue with the names of geographical objects located on continental shelf, exclusive economic zone as well as with the names of geographical objects discovered or determined by the Russian explorers in the World Ocean or Antarctica. The State Catalogue will be integrated with other databases of spatial data.
- To timely provide users with geographical names and accompanying information, the data from the State Catalogue were made accessible on an official site of Rosreestr. To meet informational needs of users, Bulletins of official changes of geographical names in the Russian Federation between 1997-2014 and e-Bulletin to reflect changes in geographical names in the CIS countries within the period 1991-2014 are compiled. The Bulletins are available on Rosreestr's official site: <u>https://rosreestr.ru</u>

Gazetteers and references of geographical names

- In accordance with the Federal Law 'On names of geographical objects' Rosreestr is responsible for endorsement of gazetteers and references of geographical names. Reference-books of administrative division of the subjects of the Russian Federation submitted by their executive authorities to Rosreestr were scrutinized and endorsed (administrative division of Mary El Republic, Murmanskaja oblast' (region) and some other).
- The reference-book 'States and territories of the world' compiled in Rosreestr is updated. The reference-book is intended for both map makers and wide range of users. It contains names of all the world's states and territories (dominions and territories with a specific status) and their capitals and centers as well as information on disputable boundaries.

Basic cartographic activities, the national system of romanization of geographical names, exonyms.

- Federal Service for State Registration, Cadastre and Cartography (Rosreestr) begins the project of placing in the open access of the National Atlas of Russia, which will contain the most complete information about the geography, nature, population, social sphere, economy, history and culture of our country.
- In the initial version of the resource the data is effective for 2004. Currently the Atlas content is being updated and will be enlarged regularly.

- On the maps intended for international circulation, the Romanization system for the Cyrillic characters GOST-83 approved by the Fifth UN Conference on Standardization of Geographical Names (Montreal, 1983) continues to be used.
- The instructions for Russian rendering of foreign-language geographical names includes lists of exomyns. While revising the instructions, the resolutions of the UN Conferences on Geographical Names which recommended to reduce the number of exomyns and not to introduce new ones are taken into consideration.



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