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Chapter 11: GEOPAK Introduction

Purpose

GEOPAK, the civil engineering design software in use at the Federal Highway Administration's Central Federal Lands Highway Division (CFLHD), is complex software with many options to select from while working on projects for or at CFLHD. This manual is not intended to teach the novice user how to use GEOPAK, but rather how CFLHD intends GEOPAK to be used on CFLHD projects. As with any powerful software, and many complex processes, there are many different ways to accomplish a given task. This manual will outline the necessary procedures to ensure proper adherence to CFLHD standards for project design.

The current version in use at CFLHD is GEOPAK 2001 MR, Build 29.

Files Used

There are many types of GEOPAK files in use at CFLHD. In many cases you will use the default files delivered with GEOPAK, as these take their settings from the AASHTO green book. This chapter will outline the files used by CFLHD and GEOPAK, paying particular attention to those that are specific to CFLHD, which must be substituted for the default GEOPAK files. The following chapters discuss in detail where to find these files, how to attach them, and information that will be helpful on the use of CFLHD files.

GEOPAK Files in use at CFLHD		
Extension	File type	Notes
.GPK	GEOPAK coordinate geometry file	Created the first time COGO is accessed. The CFLHD project manager will assign a file name to use.
.SMD	Survey manager database	Controls how survey information, feature codes, are interpreted by GEOPAK.
.SEP	Superelevation preferences	Controls how superelevation is calculated by GEOPAK
.PRJ	Project manager	Stores information for use by the GEOPAK project manager.
.DAT	Data file used to create .TIN	Contains string and point information used to create DTM's.
.TIN	Triangulated irregular network	Triangulation based on the points stored in the .dat file
.DDB	D&C manager database	Hierarchical database containing information concerning functional classification and display preferences for each feature and item used in a MicroStation design file.
.X08	Criteria file	Previous version of CFLHD criteria files.
.X10	Criteria file	Current version of CFLHD criteria files.

Table 1.1: GEOPAK Files

Of the files listed above, the .SMD, .SEP, .DDB, and all criteria files, are specific to CFLHD projects and must be used in place of the GEOPAK defaults.

For the locations of the files listed above, see chapter 2, directory structures. For CFLHD consultants, see the CFLHD web site to download these files. Detailed use of each of these files, as well as directions for finding or downloading is contained in the chapter relating to each tool.

The following GEOPAK chapters cover the topics listed below:

- User Preferences
- Project Manager
- Survey Manager
- DTM creation
- Design and Computation Manager
- Horizontal and Vertical Design
- Cross-Sections
- Cut Sheets
- Quantities
- Reports



Consultants working on CFLHD projects must download current versions of all CFLHD standard files at the start of each project. CFLHD standard files may be updated from time to time, however, files current at the start of each project will typically be used for the duration of the project. The COTR will notify the consultant if an updated file needs to be used during a project.