

**AFGE LOCAL 1309
P.O. BOX 710382
HERNDON, VA 20171**

January 5, 2004

Carol F. Aten
Chief, Office of Administrative Policy and Services
U.S. Geological Survey
MS-201
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive
Reston, VA 20192

RE: Union's Challenge of USGS 2003 FAIR Inventory
Eastern Region Geography (ERG)

I serve as president of Local 1309 of the American Federation of Federal Employees, AFL-CIO, which represents bargaining unit employees working in the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) Eastern Region Geography. I am an "interested party" as established under the provisions of Section 3(b) of the Federal Activities and Reform Act (FAIR Act). As the head of a labor organization as described in Section 7103(a)(4) of Title 5, United States Code, I submit the following challenge to select items contained in the Department of Interior's Commercial Activities Inventory of 2003.

Specifically, the union is challenging the application of reason codes to the following list of FTE in the USGS Eastern Region Geography.

**Organization Code:
25300000**

Function & Reason Code	FTE
R120C	
16	
R000H	1
R000C	1
T807C	1
W430A	2
W430B	22
W430C	24

**Organization Code:
25400000**

Function & Reason Code	FTE	
R000C		1
W499B	.5	
W499C	.5	
T806	2	

**Organization Code:
25200000**

Function & Reason Code	FTE	
R000H		1
W601	1	
W430C	3	

**Organization Code:
25100000**

Function & Reason Code	FTE	
R000C		1
R000D		1
R000H		
1.5		
R120C	.5	
R120C	1	
R999C	1	
R999F	1	
T806	27	
T807D	.5	
T807A	1	
T807B		
.75		
T807C		3
W310F	.5	
W310E	.5	
W310A	1	
W310B	4	

W310C	6
W310D	1
W310E	1
W310G	2.25
W310G	.5
W430B	.5
T806	4
W499A	4
W499C	5
W499D	1

The incumbent employees that comprise these FTE have recently been offered buyouts by the USGS due to the workforce transition to the National Map. Accordingly, the reason codes for the above FTE should be changed to “E,” “The commercial activity is pending an agency approved restructuring decision (e.g., closure, realignment).”

The above FTE should also be reclassified from commercial to inherently governmental as well. But it is pointless to argue the specific merits of the commercial coding now as many of the incumbents have taken buyouts or are transferring to FAA. Those still standing will undoubtedly find themselves taking on new and different responsibilities in the coming year that may affect their FAIR Inventory functional and commercial designations.

The USGS should uphold this challenge, change its decision, and reclassify the above FTE to reason code “E.” Thank you for your consideration of this matter. Please send the challenge decision to AFGE Local 1309, P.O. Box 710382, Herndon, VA 20171, email: afge1309@usgs.gov.

Sincerely,

Libby Chandler
President
AFGE Local 1309

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