

Leland Thormahlen

Protracting UTM Marine Cadastre into State Submerged Lands

Biography

Lee Thormahlen began his career with the Bureau of Land Management in 1963 and transferred to the Minerals Management Service when it was created in 1981. He has served as Chief, Mapping and Boundary Branch since 1982. The main function of the Branch is to define and map the offshore limits between coastal States, territories and the commonwealth of Puerto Rico and Federal Government jurisdictions. The Branch is currently responsible for mapping and preparing legal descriptions for approximately 2,062,560 square nautical miles of Federal submerged lands. Lee also serves on a number of national committees including; the Ad Hoc Baseline Committee (Chaired by the Department of State), FGDC Cadastral Subcommittee, FGDC Shoreline and Spatial Data Subcommittee and the FGDC Marine Boundary Working Group (Co-Chair).

Lee has provided technical expertise for eight Submerged Lands Act cases tried before the United States Supreme Court, was a member of the treaty negotiations team for the Western Gulf of Mexico Treaty with Mexico and on a routine basis provides technical assistance to the Department of State for international boundary computations. In 1999 under special assignment from the Secretary of the Interior the Branch determined the Territorial Submerged Lands Act boundaries and created boundaries for two new or expanded offshore National Monuments in the United States Virgin Islands. In addition, the Branch has been assigned under the Office of Management and Budget A-16 Process the responsibility for developing the offshore "marine" cadastre for the United States.