

State Catalogue of Geographical Names

The Federal Service for State Registration, Cadastre and Cartography is a federal executive authority responsible for the development of state policy and legal regulation in the areas of activity assigned to its jurisdiction, including in the field of names of geographical objects.

The Federal Law of 18.12.1997 No. 152-FZ "On Names of Geographical Objects" (hereinafter – the Federal Law) establishes the legal basis for activities in the field of naming and renaming geographical objects, as well as normalization, use, registration, accounting and preservation of names of geographical objects as an integral part of the historical and cultural heritage of the peoples of the Russian Federation.

The assignment of names to geographical objects and renaming of geographical objects is performed by the Government of the Russian Federation.

Since 2009, more than 400 regulatory legal acts of the Government of the Russian Federation on the assignment and renaming of geographical objects have been adopted.

In accordance with article 10 of the Federal Law, the names of geographical objects are subject to registration and accounting in the State Catalogue of Geographical Names (hereinafter – the State Catalogue). The State Catalogue includes data on the names of settlements, physical and geographical objects, including objects discovered or identified by Russian researchers within the open sea and Antarctica.

The maintenance of the State Catalogue of Geographical Names is carried out by the public law company “Roskadastr”.

Currently, about 800 thousand geographical objects are registered in the State Catalogue of Geographical Names.

The State Catalogue consists of two sections:

names of geographical objects of the land part of the Russian Federation;

names of geographical objects of the continental shelf of the Russian Federation, the exclusive economic zone of the Russian Federation, as well as geographical objects discovered or identified by Russian researchers within the open sea and Antarctica. The system of transliteration of the Cyrillic alphabet with Latin letters GOST-83, adopted at the Fifth UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (Montreal, 1987), is also used in this section (<https://rosreestr.gov.ru/site/activity/geodeziya-i-kartografiya/naimenovaniya-geograficheskikh-obektov/zakonodatelstvo-rf-o-naimenovaniyakh-geograficheskikh-obektov/>).

The State Catalogue is maintained with the help of an information search system that forms a database about objects and their names and facilitates its storage, processing and issuance of information registered in it at the request of interested parties free of charge.

At the request of applicants, the following information is provided from the State Catalogue:

lists of geographical objects according to specified criteria (for the entire territory of the Russian Federation, by type of object, by specified parameters, etc.);

registration and accounting forms, which contain all the registered information for a specific name of a geographical object.

For the convenience of applicants, the recommended application form is available on the website of the State Catalogue Operator.

Geographical objects in the database of the State Catalogue are characterized by indicators, most of which are the information necessary for registration and unambiguous identification of a geographical object:

name of the geographical object;

type of object;

administrative status of the settlement;

administrative-territorial position of the geographical object;

geographical coordinates;

nomenclature of the sheet of a topographic map of scale 1:100 000 on which geographical object is displayed;

position of the object relative to another larger geographical object (if it is a mountain, then it is linked to a mountain system, if it is a railway station, then it is linked to a railway).

The other part of the information indicators includes additional reference data on the geographical object and its name (variants of the name, variants of the type of object, information on the origin of the name, etc.), for example, the Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR of 06.09.1991 No. 1643-1 "On the Return of the City of Leningrad of its Historical Name St. Petersburg".

In order to increase the availability of information on current names of geographical objects, the registers of names of geographical objects are published on the official website of the State Catalogue Operator: <https://kadastr.ru/services/gosudarstvennyy-katalog-geograficheskikh-nazvaniy/> and an open data set "Information from the State Catalogue of Geographical Names" has been prepared and published on the official website of Rosreestr in CSV format (<https://rosreestr.gov.ru/opendata/7706560536svedeniyaizgosudarstvennogokatalogageograficheskikh-nazvaniy/>).