STATE OF ALASKA
TOWNSHIP MERIDIANS

January 2005

Map projection: Albers Equal Area
Map scale: 1:2,500,000

0 50 100 150 200 Miles

0 50 100 150 200 Kilometers

MERIDIANS

- **Copper River**
- **Fairbanks**
- **Kateel River**
- **Seward**
- **Umiat**

Primary Data Sources:

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR) protraction diagrams; BLM AEH coordinate files ARC/INFO coverages, 1995; BLM coordinate file, 1993; ADNR research, 1994-95.

Geographic Place Names: Dictionary of Alaska Place Names (1967) and U.S. Geological Survey Quadrangle Maps, (1:1 million scale; automated by U.S. Geological Survey, 1994, and annotated by ADNR, June 1996).

Explanation:

Township boundaries were generated from radian measurements of township corner coordinates represented to the nearest 0.001 second recorded on official protraction diagrams of the state. ADNR used the AEH coordinate files from BLM as the basis of its work. BLM provided information for 18,654 land-based townships, and ADNR added another 768 townships that cover marine areas. Based on ADNR research, corner coordinates were modified for fewer than 600 BLM townships to correct the east-west and/or north-south alignment of neighboring townships. ADNR research also ensured that townships match across meridian lines.

Out of a total of 19,422 townships for the state, 195 townships are irregular; that is, they cannot be described by four corner points. Most irregular townships were outlined by BLM, using as many corner points as necessary, which was typically six to represent L-shaped townships. ADNR added several dozen irregular townships to BLM's list to cover state protraction diagrams. Many complex townships, including those along the U.S.-Canada border and those where meridians join, are described by far more than six corner points. Using a geographic projection, ADNR created a double-precision coverage for the entire state from a compilation of the regular and irregular townships. Arcs were densified while the township outlines were still in a geographic projection, to maintain the proper curvature of boundary lines during subsequent projection to other coordinate systems. The overall result is a single-precision Albers coverage that is responsive to the graphic and analytic demands of the geographic software while maintaining close mathematical ties to the original township corner coordinates on the protraction diagrams. This precise coverage is intended to geographically represent BLM's State of Alaska public land survey system protractions and may not support survey quality area calculations.

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