NIMA GNS Feature Designations FAQ

This table describes the contents of the file: "nima_feat_desig_apr02.zip" which can be accessed from the CHGIS working papers downloads page.

The ZIP archive contains two files:

1) nima_feat_desig
2) readme

The file (of 641 feature types) was parsed from the online reference page for the GeoNameServer (GNS) Feature Designation Cross Reference of the National Imagery and Mapping Agency.

Note that the agency NIMA was absorbed into the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency, NGIA. Subsequently the availability of downloads to all the Country Files was expanded and continue to be accessible (2017-03-15) here:

http://geonames.nga.mil/gns/html/namefiles.html

There are two fields in the Country Names files related to feature type classification.

1) FC Feature Classes **Feature Class**: Nine (9) major feature categories into which similar feature designations are grouped.
A = Administrative region
P = Populated place
V = Vegetation
L = Locality or area
U = Undersea
R = Streets, highways, roads, or railroad
T = Hypsographic
H = Hydrographic
S = Spot

2) DSG Feature Designation Code are found in the table of nima_feat_desig_apr02.zip

Latest versions can be downloaded here (see DSG_lookup.jpg for instructions):

http://geonames.nga.mil/namesgaz/

Enclosed find an updated version: ngia_dsg_codes_2017-03-15.csv

See also "China Historical Feature Types

Description of , "nima_feat_desig"

Field Name	Description
feat_code	the abbreviation used in GNS tables
feat_class	a one-letter code for the nine basic types of **feature classification** used in NIMA'S GNS tables
feat_name	Name of the feature designation

Sources:

- **(former) National Imagery and Mapping Agency**
  GNS feature designations cross-reference
  Washington, DC

- **National Geospatial Intelligence Agency**
  GNS feature designations Lookup
  Washington, DC