

BACKGROUND

Fugro EarthData (Fugro) was tasked as the Quality Control (QC) manager for the North Carolina statewide orthophotography project under AECOM's North Carolina contract. The main responsibilities covering this task were to ensure all orthophotography tiles were standardized in their delivery, had a percent of the tiles checked for errors, and generate MrSID tiles and mosaics for all accepted data.

ISSUE

To achieve the objective of creating a 50:1 MrSID mosaic for each county Fugro utilized Lizardtech's GeoExpress 7. It was observed on certain county MrSID mosaics that the background pixels at locations of transition from imagery to null value areas were not smooth. What should have been a butt matched transition going from the edge of the county imagery to a null value white (255,255,255) shade actually had off white pixel artifacts at the point of transition. This issue was best observed when the null value white pixels were set to transparent then the null pixels that were off white could be seen.

The cause of this issue is the Lizardtech software compression which expresses the issue when counties of a certain shape are mosaiced.

RECOMMENDATION

Fugro contacted Lizardtech regarding the observed artifacts and was informed that the only way for this to be resolved was to create mosaiced images without compression. Being that this project called for 50:1 mosaiced county deliveries there is no resolution for the current deliverables.

Future projects could be impacted by this artifact issue should a compressed mosaic be tasked. New versions of GeoExpress could resolve this issue but it was not known at the time this document was written if Lizardtech planned that update as a part of any future releases.

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