US Army Corps of Engineers ®

New Orleans District

EGIS Gateway User Guide
EGIS001

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1   Overview

EGIS Gateway is an ArcMap Add-In which advertises available GIS data layers and maps. The purpose of the tool is to inform users of new developments in the enterprise GIS database and other available advertised databases.

EGIS Gateway displays a dock-able window that lists a catalog of GIS data layers, maps, and announcements describing new additions to these items that have become available since the last ArcMap activation. EGIS Gateway offers an array of predefined map layers that provide access to live GIS data presented with standardized symbolization and labeling options. Layers are classified in a taxonomy according to conceptual groupings. GIS layers, metadata, and map documents are directly accessible through EGIS Gateway.

2   EGIS Gateway Shown On New Map Creation

The EGIS Gateway dock-able window automatically displays when a new map is created in ArcMap (Figure 1)
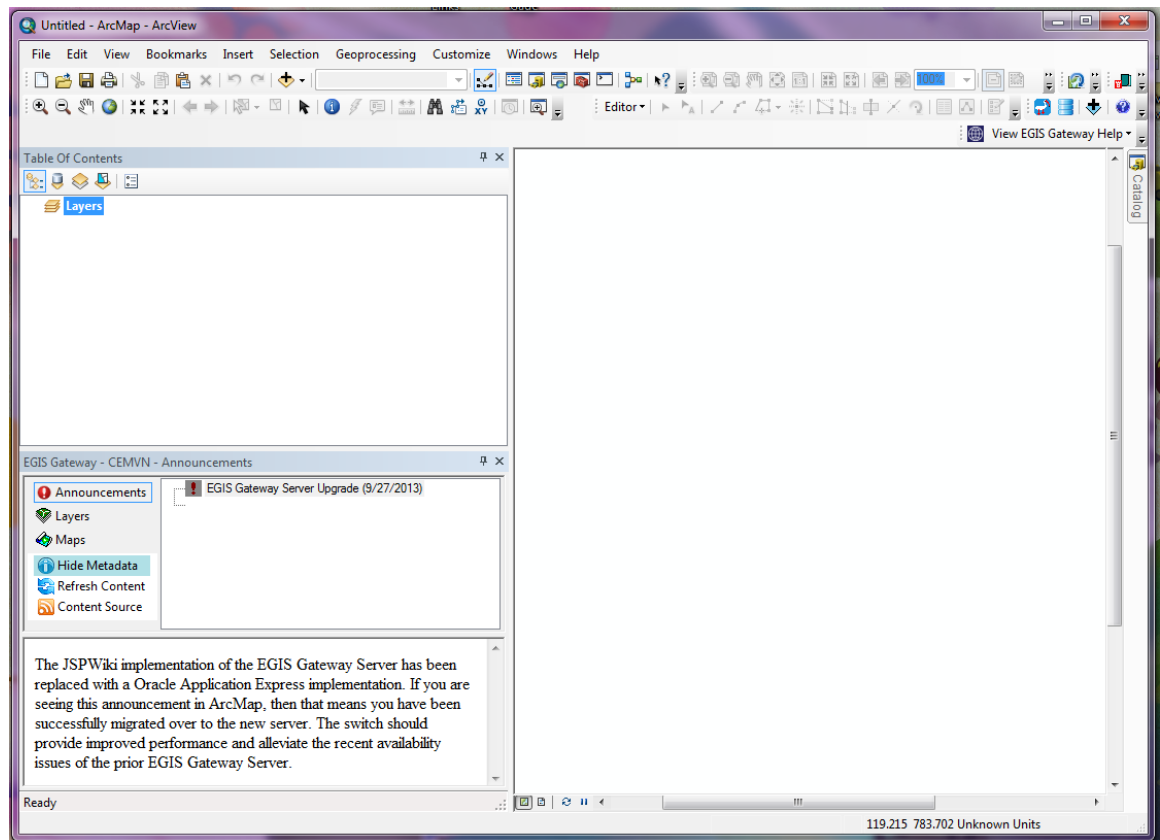

Figure 1: EGIS Gateway displays when a new map document is created.

If any new content has been added to EGIS Gateway since your last visit, a dialog will appear informing you that new items were found (Figure 2). Items that are new will appear in bold.
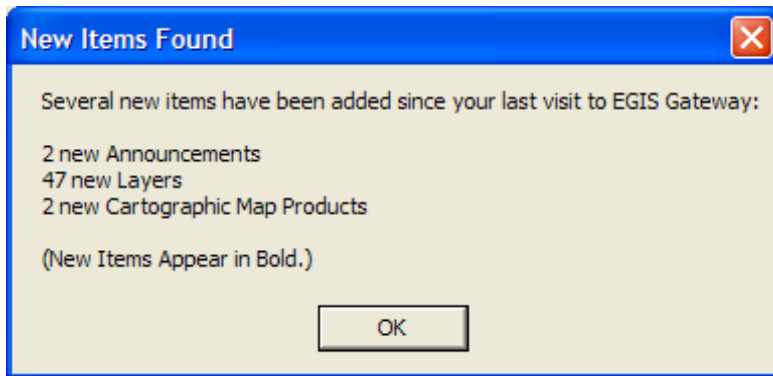
Figure 2: The "New Items Found" dialog indicates that new items were added.

3   How to Access EGIS Gateway From Existing Maps

The EGIS Gateway dock-able window does not pop up automatically when you double click on an existing map document. EGIS Gateway can also be accessed from the EGIS Gateway toolbar. Right-click anywhere on the ArcMap toolbar area to see a list of toolbars (Figure 3). Select "USACE EGIS Gateway Toolbar" from the list of toolbars. You will now see a floating EGIS Gateway toolbar (Figure 4).
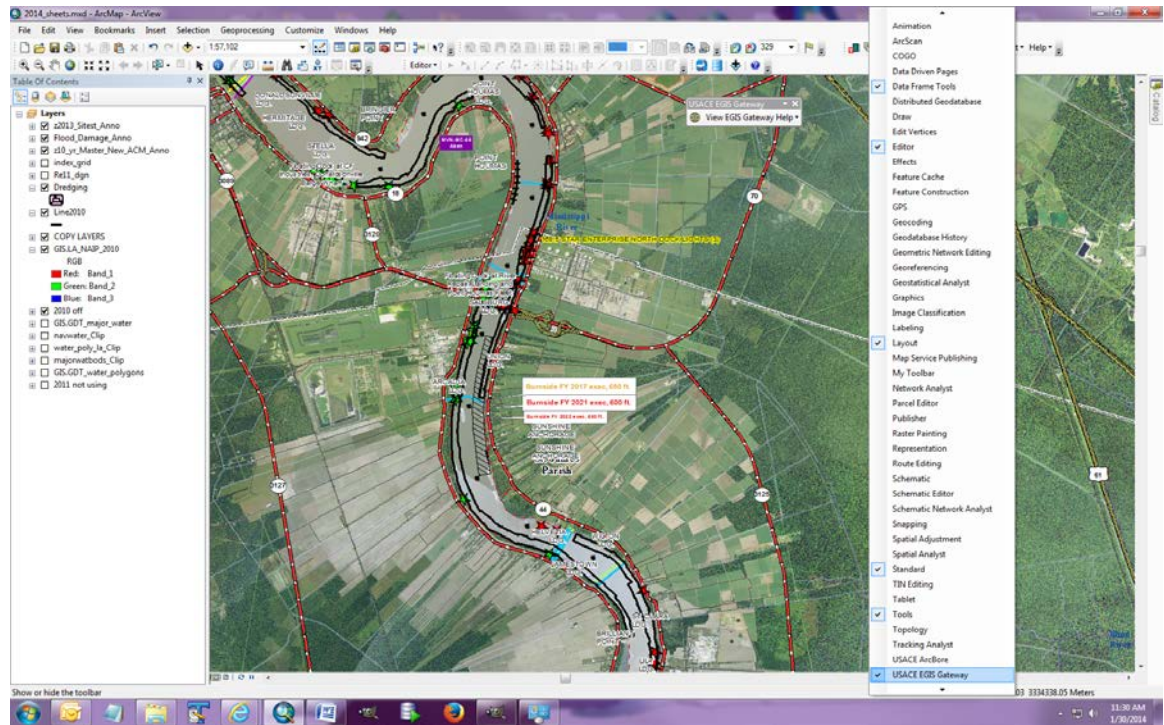
Figure 3: Select **USACE EGIS Gateway** from a list of ArcMap Toolbars.

Figure 4: This is the floating EGIS Gateway toolbar.

You may drag and drop the EGIS Gateway toolbar to the toolbar area to dock it.

Click the globe icon to the toolbar to hide or show the EGIS Gateway dock-able window.

Alternatively, you can hide and show the EGIS Gateway dock-able window by clicking **Hide/Show EGIS Gateway** on the **Windows** menu (Figure 5).

Figure 5: EGIS Gateway is accessible from the "Windows" menu.

4   Announcements

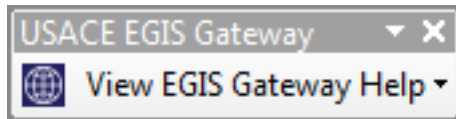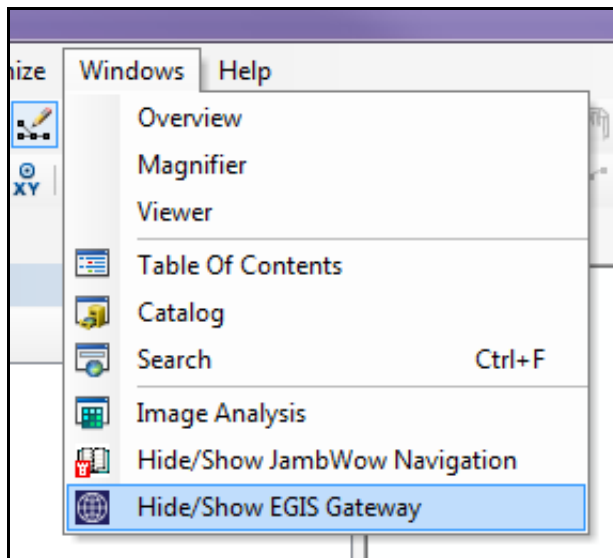When EGIS Gateway first starts up, it may take a few moments to load the content. EGIS Gateway will load Announcement, Layers, and Maps, in that order. As the content finishes loading, the Announcements, Layers, and Maps buttons will become enabled and will light up.

When the Announcements content finishes loading, EGIS Gateway shows a list of Announcements (Figure 6).
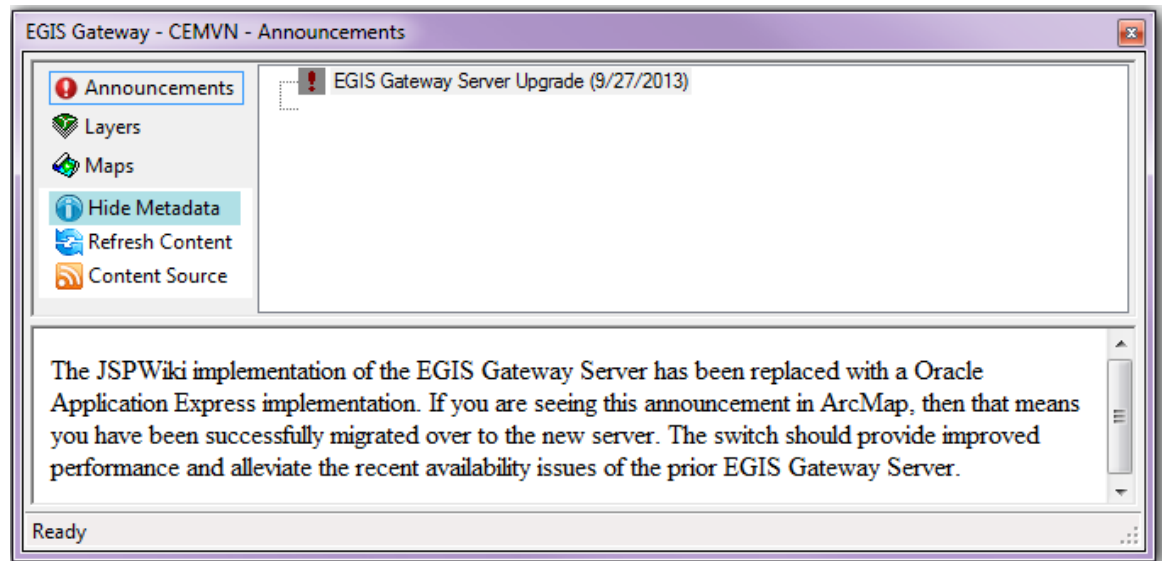

Figure 6: EGIS Gateway displays a list of announcements.

Click on an announcement to view it. The announcement is displayed in the box in the lower part of the window.

You can click and drag on the border between the lower half of the window and the upper half of the window to resize the window panels.

5   Layers

Click on the **Layers** button to view a list of map layers (Figure 7).
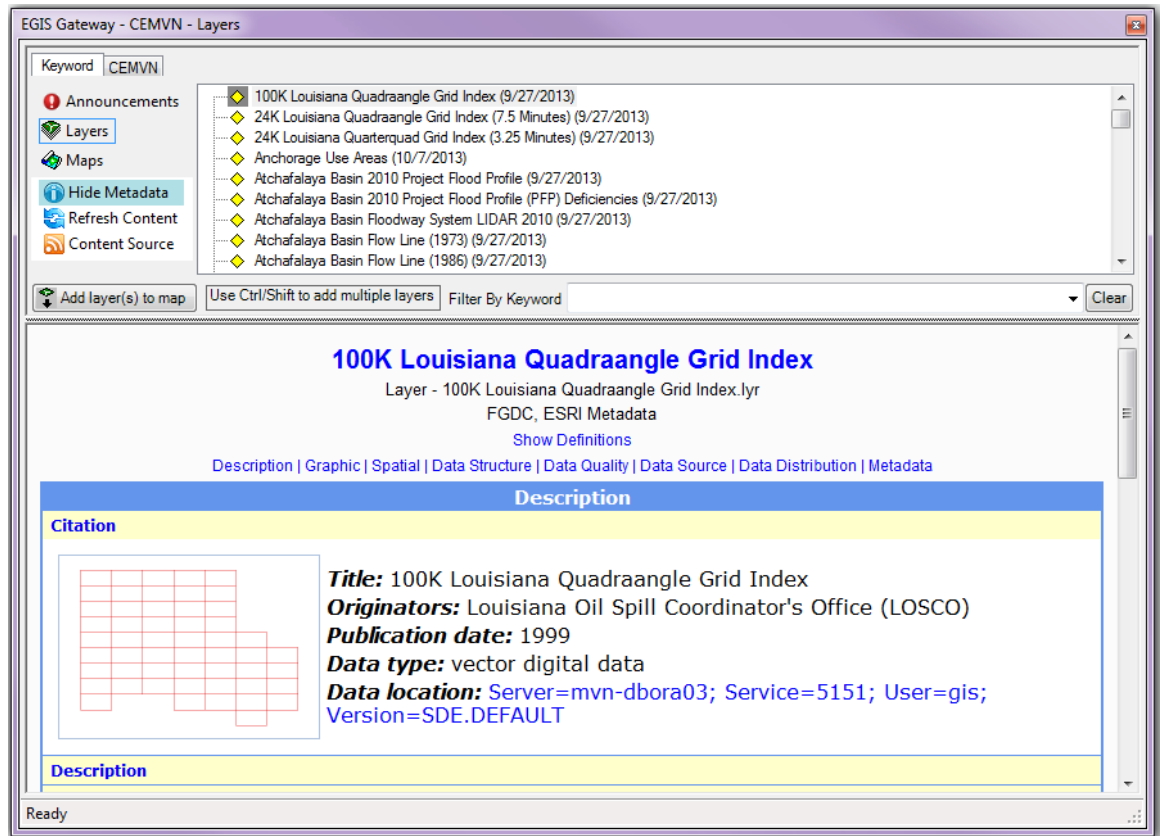
Figure 7: EGIS Gateway displays a list of layers.

Click on a layer once to view it. The lower half of the window contains FGDC metadata about the map layer. **Metadata** is information about the map layer, including when it was collected, the purpose of the layer, who collected it, etc. **FGDC** is the Federal Geographic Data Committee metadata standard.

You can click and drag on the border between the lower half of the window and the upper half of the window to resize the window panels.

Double click on a layer to add it to the map. Notice that the layer now appears in the map's table of contents (Figure 8).
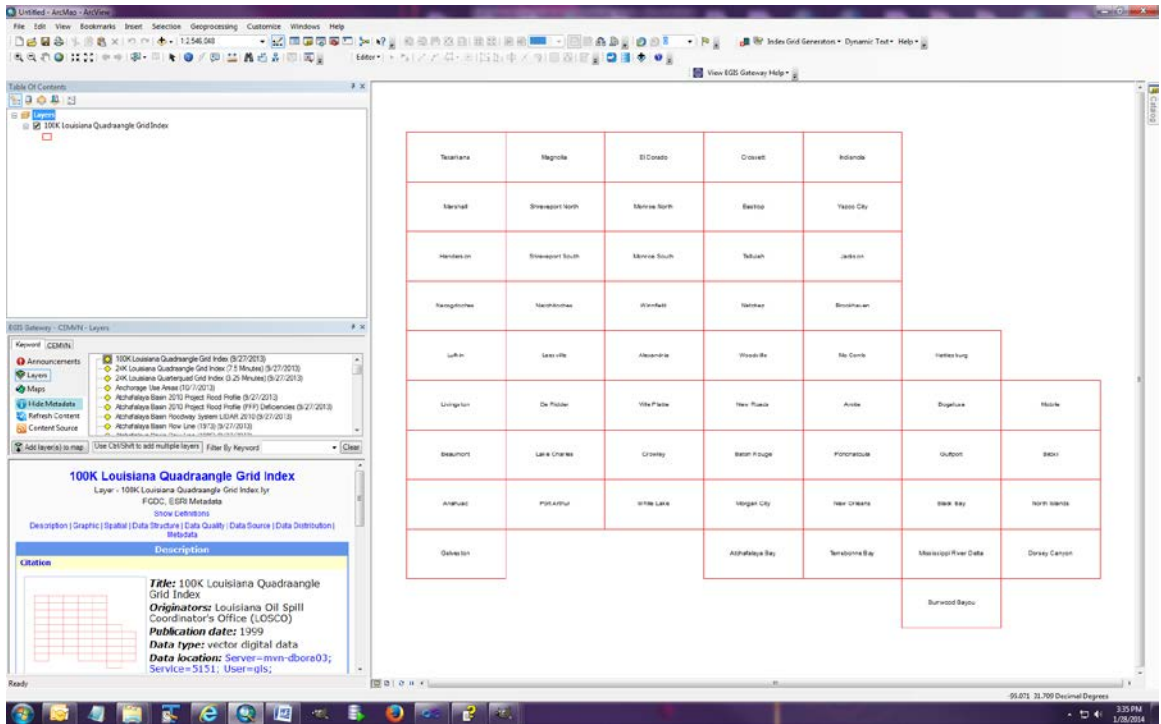
Figure 8: A Layer was added to the map.

Multiple layers can be added to the map simultaneously. Hold down the **Ctrl** key to select multiple layers. Or, hold down the **Shift** key to select a range of layers. Then, click the **Add Layer(s) to map** button to add them to the map (Figure 9).
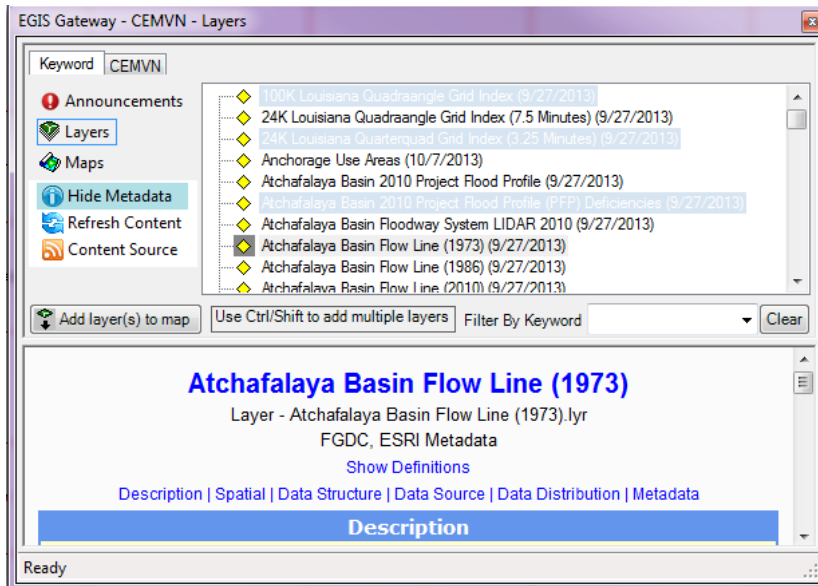

Figure 9: Hold down **Shift** or **Ctrl** to select multiple layers.

The list of layers can be filtered by keyword. In the **Filter by Keyword** combo box, type in a keyword or select a keyword from the dropdown list. Now only layers with the matching keyword are displayed (Figure 10). Click **Clear** to display all of the layers again.
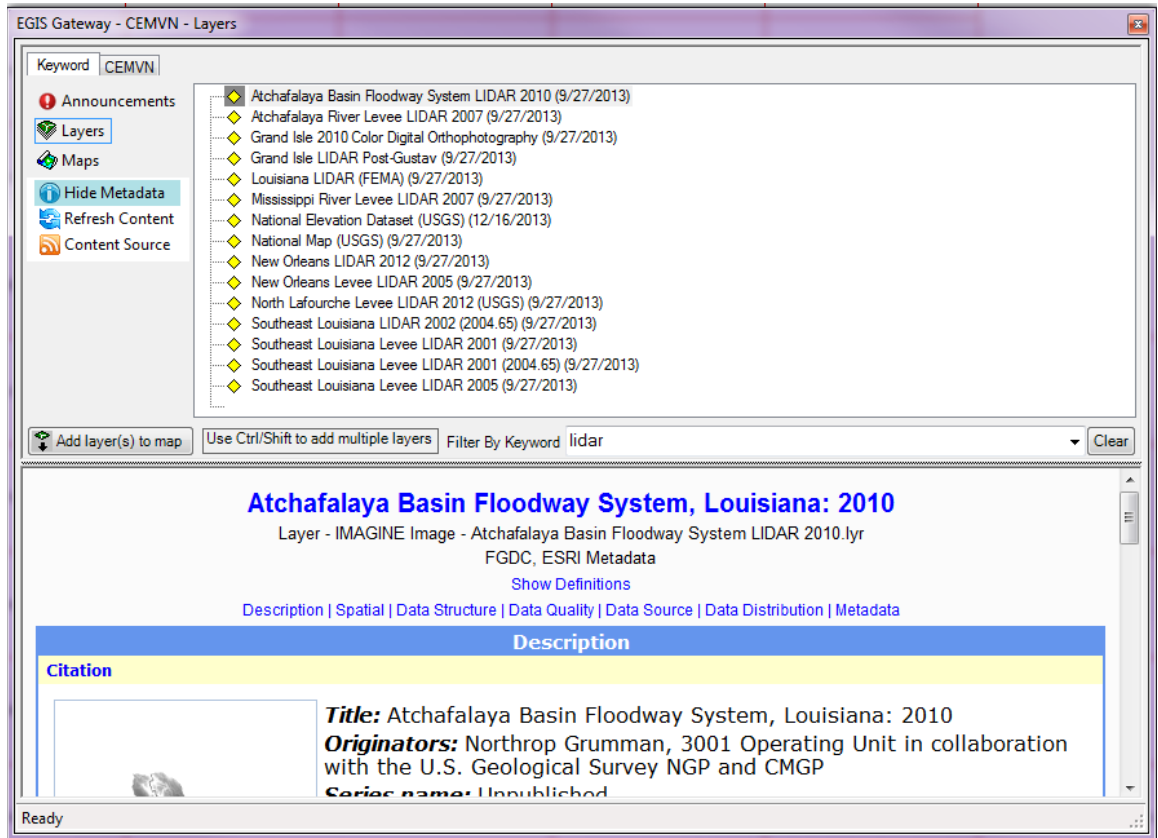

Figure 10: The list of layers is filtered by the keyword that you selected.

Layers can be grouped into hierarchies. One hierarchy is available at the time of this writing: **CEMVN**

Click on the **CEMVN** tab to view the **CEMVN** hierarchy (Figure 11). The **CEMVN** hierarchy classifies layers based on the office(s) that use the layer. Since many layers are used by more than one office, these layers will appear more than once in the **CEMVN** hierarchy.

Notice that hierarchical groups appear as red circles. To display the contents of a group, click the plus symbol next to the read circle or double click on the group. Individual layers appear as yellow diamonds.
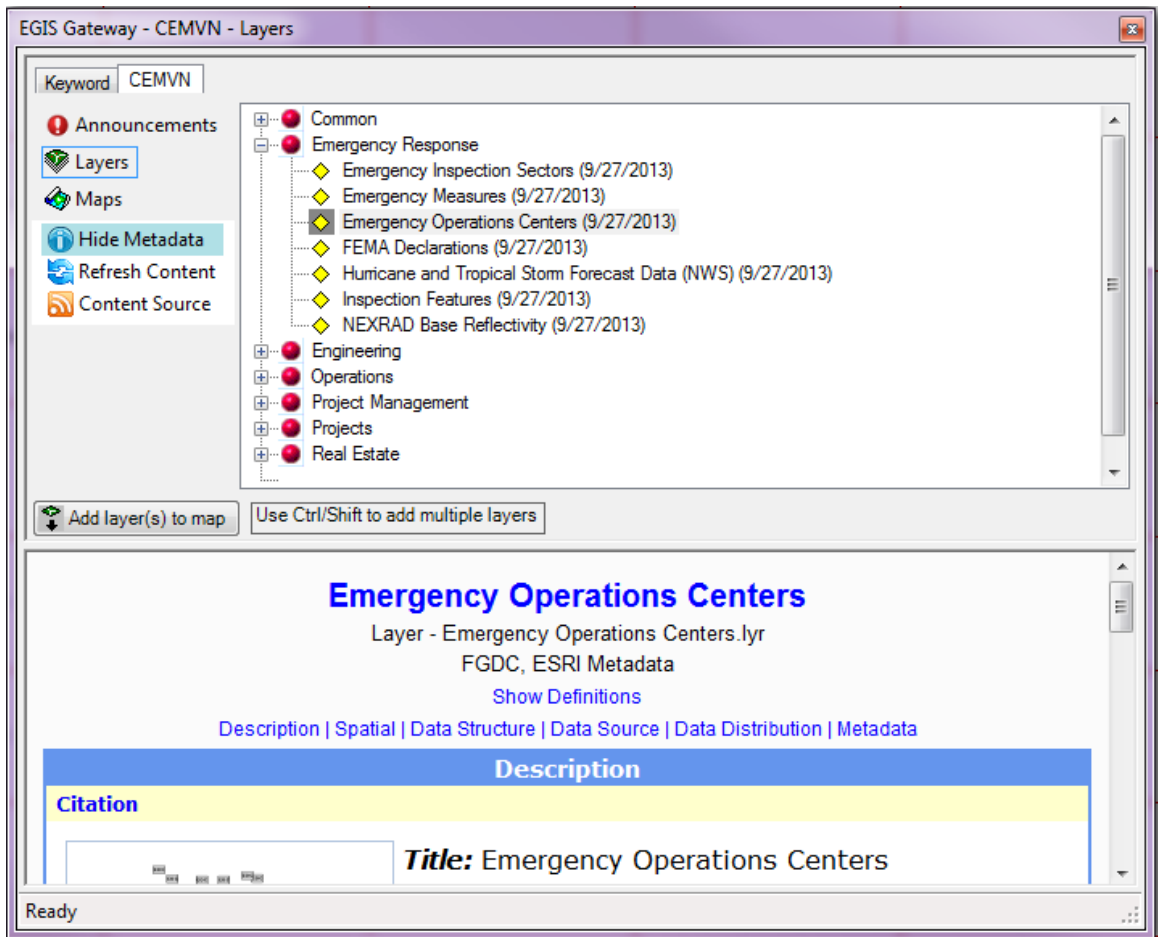
Figure 11: Click the CEMVN tab to view the CEMVN hierarchy.

Click on the **Keyword** tab to return a list of all layers or to filter the list of layers by a keyword.

5   Maps

Click the **Maps** button to view a list of map documents (Figure 12). These are ArcMap map documents, in .MXD format. Map documents pull data from various sources including databases, shapefiles, and personal GeoDatabases. These maps can be viewed directly in the current ArcMap session.

Figure 12: Click **Maps** to view a list of map documents.
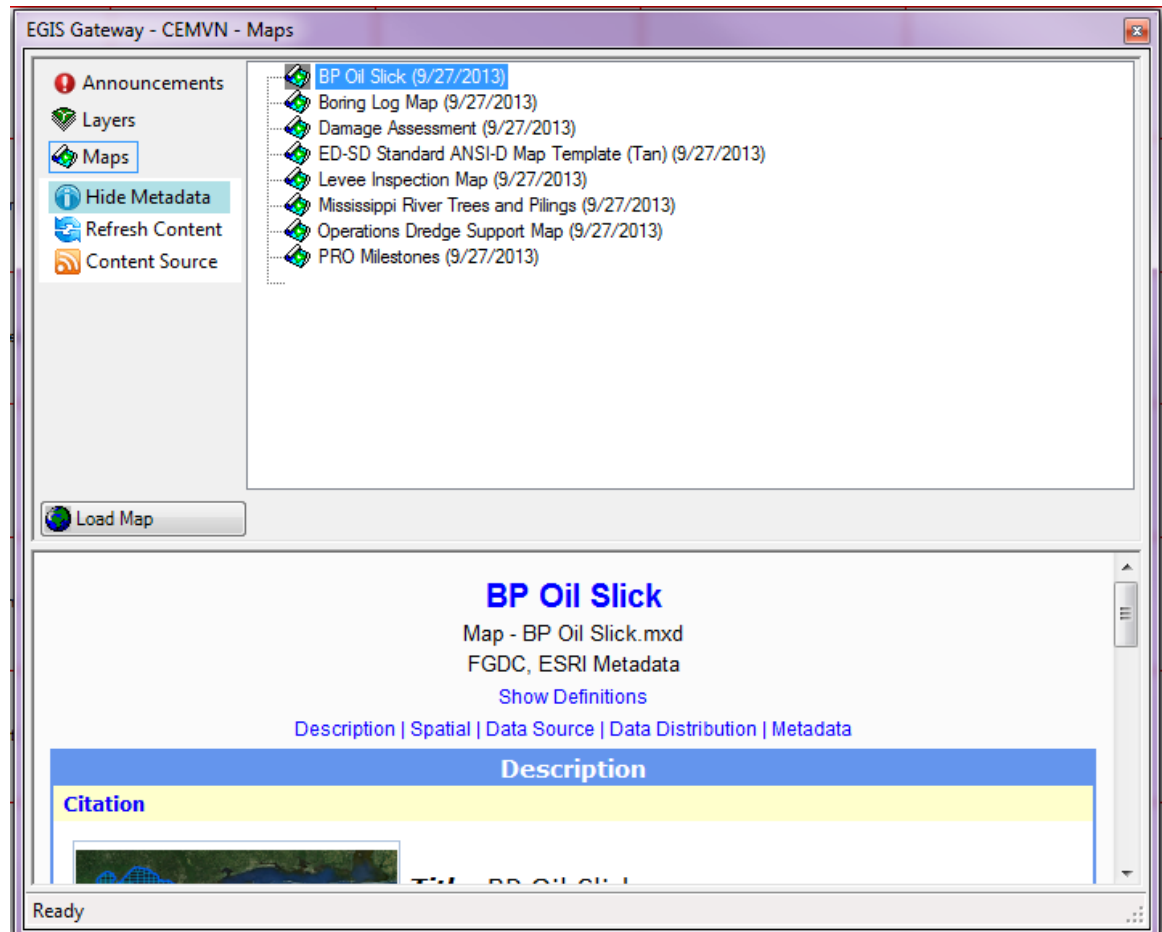
Click a map once to view its metadata. The lower half of the window contains metadata about the map.

You can click and drag on the border between the lower half of the window and the upper half of the window to resize the window panels.

Double-click on a map to open it in the current ArcMap session. Or, click once on the map and then click the **Load Map** button.

If the current map has changes that were not saved, ArcMap will ask if you wish to save the current map before opening the new map (Figure 13).

Figure 13: ArcMap prompts you to save changes to the current map.

The newly opened map is stored in a temporary map document that will be destroyed when the ArcMap session ends. To save the newly opened map, click **Save As…** on the **File** menu. Choose a location to save the map document and choose a meaningful name for the map document (Figure 14).
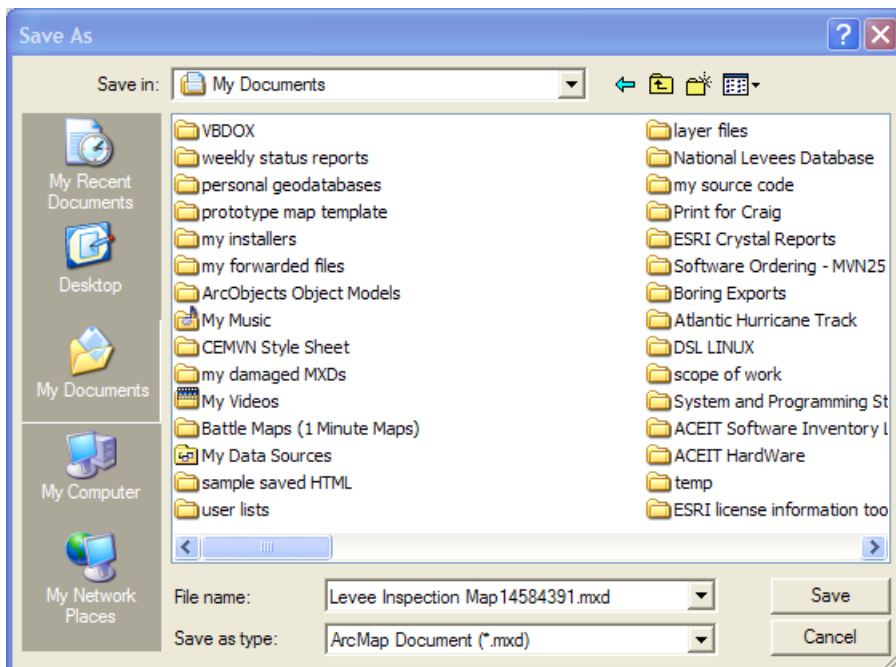

Figure 14: Choose a file name and folder location to save the map document.

6   Hide Metadata/Show Metadata

Click the **Hide Metadata** button to hide the metadata panel. While the metadata panel is hidden, the program runs a little faster because it does not have to load the metadata from the server. The upper panel is expanded to claim the additional screen real estate (Figure 15). The button text changes to "Show Metadata". Click **Show Metadata** to show the metadata panel again.
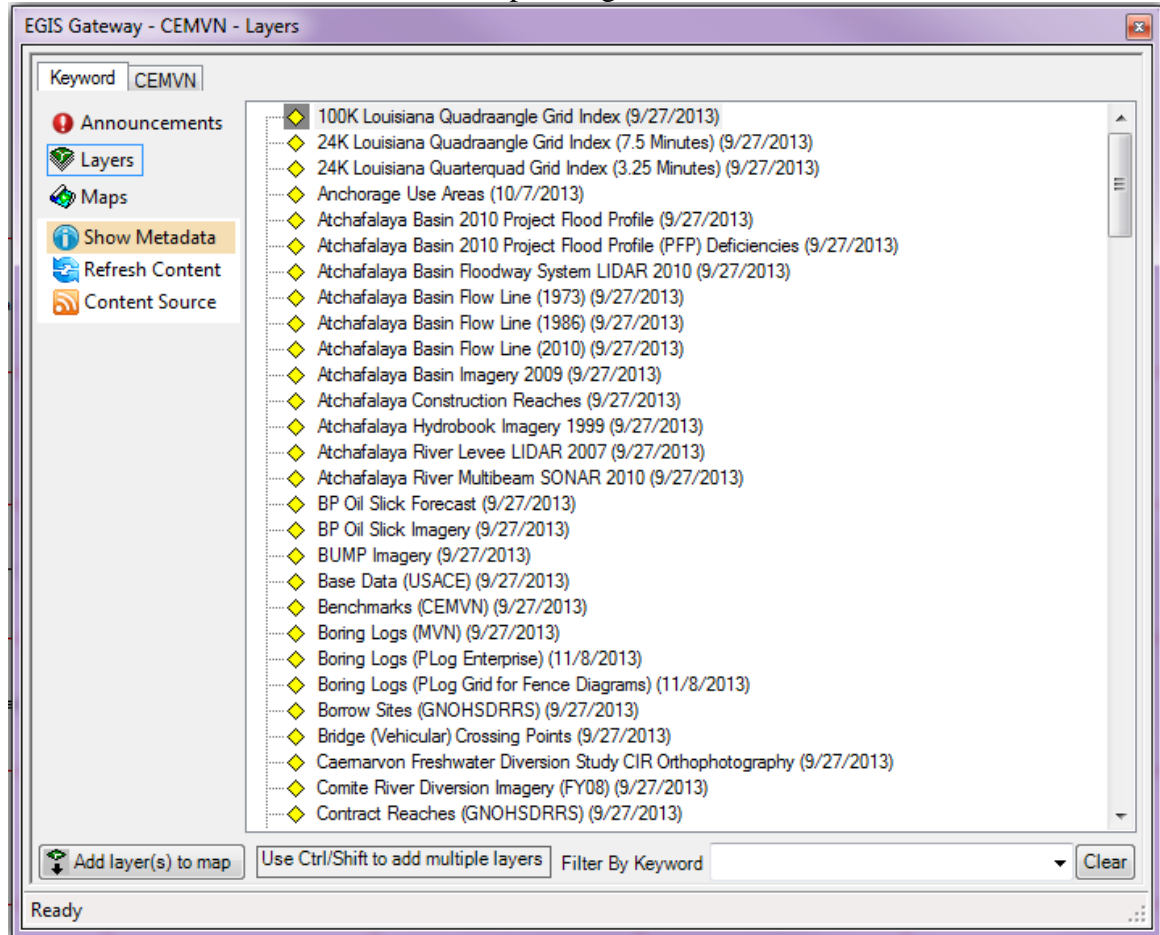

Figure 15: When the metadata panel is hidden, the upper panel expands to claim the additional screen real estate. The button text changes to "Show Metadata".

7   Refresh Content

Click the **Refresh Content** button to refresh the lists of Announcements, Layers, and Maps. This will come in handy when you want to add that brand new layer that was created this morning, but you do not want to restart your ArcMap session. Or, if EGIS Gateway previously failed to load the Announcements, Layers, and Maps, click this button to try again.

8   Content Source

Click the **Content Source** button to view a list of content sources. Content sources feed out Announcements, Layers, and Maps to EGIS Gateway from various USACE districts and/or divisions. At the time of this writing, the sources include CEMVN and CEMVS. The active source appears with a checkmark next to it (Figure 16). Click a source from the list, and EGIS Gateway will load Announcements, Layers, and Maps from that source. EGIS Gateway will remember which source you selected and will load content from that source in future ArcMap sessions.
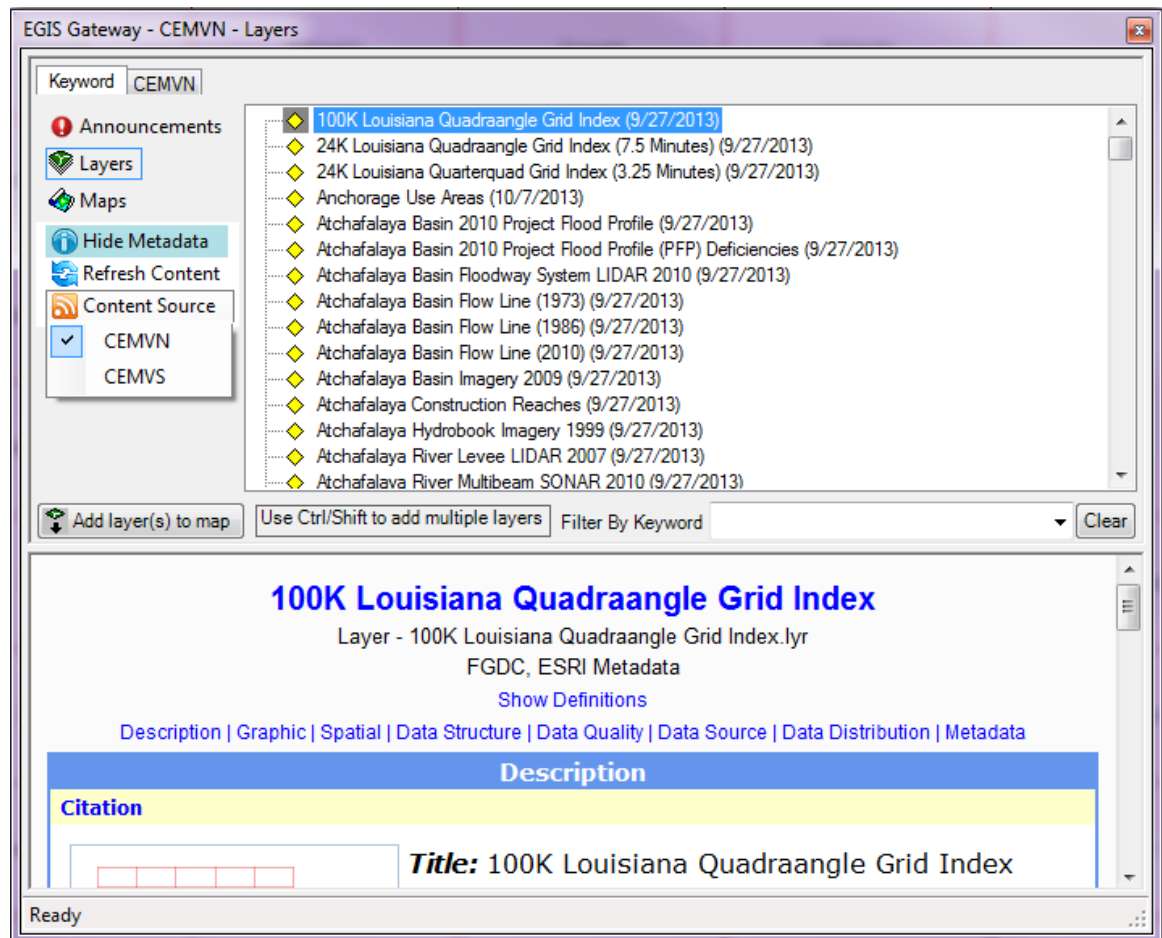

Figure 16: Click **Content Source** to select a source. The active source appears with a checkmark next to it.

9   Help Menu

The **USACE EGIS Gateway** toolbar contains a help menu entitled "**View EGIS Gateway Help**" (Figure 17). The help menu has two buttons: **About EGIS Gateway** and **User Guide**.
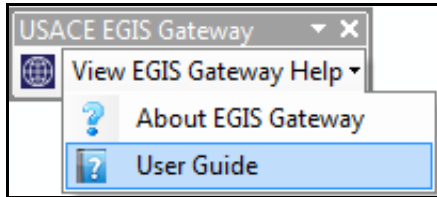

Figure 17: The **USACE EGIS Gateway** toolbar contains a help menu.

Click the **About EGIS Gateway** button to read some information about EGIS Gateway (Figure 18). Click the **User Guide** button to view this user guide.

Figure 18: **About EGIS Gateway** contains information about the program.

10   Feedback Appreciated

If you have any feedback on how EGIS Gateway can be improved, or if you would like to sponsor additional development work or layer production, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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