

Quality Partnership Initiative
American Association of Port Authorities and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Communication/Collaboration Best Practices

Port Name: Port of Seattle

USACE District: Seattle District

Points of Contact

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Best Practice: Funding additional Army Corps program managers dedicated to port-related projects through authority granted by Section 214 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000.

Purpose: Take advantage of a federal program that allows ports to partner with the Corps to facilitate the permit process.

Explanation: Section 214 of WRDA allows the Secretary of the Army to accept and expend funds contributed by non-federal public entities in order to hire program managers dedicated to those entities' projects. Not only does this allow the Corps to dedicate more time to a non-federal entity's project, but it also helps develop more knowledgeable project managers at the District level —people with specialized regulatory and technical expertise specific to the project.

Examples of Results: Assigning dedicated ACE program managers to port-related projects has resulted in a more efficient permitting process. It has allowed the port to engage in meaningful collaboration during earlier stages of a project regarding federal agency requirements and resource issues that has helped guide the port on how to reduce adverse environmental impacts, avoid costly and time consuming design changes, and define appropriate mitigation requirements. Time required to obtain permits has been reduced. In addition, the ports receive guidance for advance planning and are alerted to new issues affecting federal agency review of port operations and permitting. The port's planning is more accurate and effective because the possibility of encountering unnecessary delays is reduced.

Why this Process is Important to the Port and the Corps: The sponsor port benefits from more efficient permitting. Section 214 has enabled the Corps to process more permits without dedicating additional federal resources. Port-dedicated project managers mean that other Corps staff can focus more attention on non-port projects. In other words, not only does the port or other public funding entity benefit from reduced wait times, but so does any other organization that applies to the Corps for a permit.