

***AAPA HN&E
Committee Meeting
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US Army
Corps of Engineers

Revisions to the 1983
Principles & Guidelines -
Water Resources Planning for the
21st Century

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Background



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- Economic and Environmental Principles & Guidelines for Water and Related Land Resources Implementation Studies (the P & G)
- Signed in 1983 by Ronald Reagan and James Watt as Chairman of the U.S. Water Resources Council

What is the P&G ?



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- Process for water resources authorizing legislation
- Requirement for Federal agencies
- Principles and Standards signed by President of the United States
 - Principles - 30,000-foot view
 - Standards - 15,000 foot-view
 - Procedures - “How To” manual
 - Procedures updated as needed

P&G

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- Section 2031(a) Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), 2007:

“

“(a) NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES PLANNING POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States that all water resources projects should reflect national priorities, encourage economic development, and protect the environment”

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- Section 2031(b)(2) WRDA 2007:

“Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue revisions, consistent with Paragraph (3), to the principles and guidelines for use by the Secretary in the formulation, evaluation, and implementation of water resources projects.”

- Legislation was specific to Corps

Expanded to Applies Government-wide



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- US Army Corps of Engineers (Civil Works)
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Tennessee Valley Authority
- Natural Resources Conservation Services; and
- Any other Federal agency conducting water and related implementation studies

Legislative Directions



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- National objective is to **maximize net national economic, environmental and social benefits** by seeking to:
 - Maximize sustainable economic development.
 - Protect and restore the functioning of natural system and mitigate unavoidable impacts.
 - Avoid unwise use of floodplains and flood prone areas.

Biggest Change



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- No “NED rule.” Economic and environmental outputs are co-equal

ASA(CW) and Corps Revision Process



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- March 14, 2008 – Initial planning meeting
- June 5, 2008 – Public information meeting
- September 12, 2008 – Public review
- December 12, 2008 – Corps draft
- January 20, 2009 – New administration
- February 13, 2009 – Army/Corps submitted draft Principles and Standards to CEQ

CEQ Takes the Lead



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- February 13, 2009 – Nancy Sutley, Chair, CEQ asked agency heads to review draft P&S
- April 14-17, 2009 – CEQ convened interagency working group to revise P&S
- CEQ solicited public input on applying new P&G government-wide
 - July 1, 2009 Federal Register Notice
 - July 13, 2009 – CEQ webinar

CEQ Takes the Lead



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- July 30, 2009 – CEQ issued new P&S revised per webinar for formal agency “policy” review
 - ~240 comments!
- October 23, 2009 – CEQ met with Agency Heads to consider revisions & resolve last issues
 - interagency application
 - Nation Objectives emphasis on environment
 - preference for nonstructural
 - public safety standards

CEQ Timeline



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- Dec 2009 – CEQ Federal Register Notice released draft P&S for public review
 - Agency reviews expected, including Corps
 - **Participate!!!**
- Late Nov/early Dec2009 – draft P&S sent to National Academy of Sciences for peer review
 - 11 month process

Schedule



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- National Academy of Sciences to complete its review by November 2010.
- 90-day public comment period underway now.
- Each agency to develop its own “Implementation Guidance” by the end of 2010.
- Developing the “Procedures” will take more than a year – and then some!
- CEQ will develop “Interagency Guidelines” (the “Procedures”) – then agencies will develop their own specific guidance.

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- The revised P&G will emphasize:
 - Collaboration
 - Watershed-based planning
 - Ecosystem approach
- Co-equal environmental and economic development objectives
- Increase effectiveness and efficiency
- Leverage Federal, State and local agencies, and NGOs/NPOs

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- Challenge: develop Guidelines and Procedures to implement the new Principles and Standards
 - Watershed needs vs site-specific needs
 - Account for climate change
 - Trade-off analyses & recommendations
 - equal consideration of monetary & non-monetary impacts, including unquantified impacts
 - preference for nonstructural, Environmental Justice, and avoiding disproportionate impacts on low income, tribal and minority populations

P&G



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- National Objectives for Water Resources Planning (1 page)
- Planning Principles (3 page)
- Planning Standards (20 Pages)
- Planning Procedures (TBD – significantly more than 20 pages)

CEQ Website for P&G



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- <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/initiatives/PandG>



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PARTICIPATE IN THE Public Review

Participate

Participate

Participate



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Questions???

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