

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

Port Name: NY & NJ

POC:

Corps District: New York

POC: Tom Shea

Best Practice: Establishment of a Senior Partners Group

Purpose: The Seniors Partners Group met to review the status of projects within the Port Of New York and New Jersey and resolve issues

Explanation: The Senior Partners Group was composed of the senior decision makers from the New York District, the PANYNJ Port Commerce Department, USCG Sector New York, USEPA Region 2, New Jersey Department of Transportation Office of Maritime Resources, the New York City Economic Development Corporation, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. Initially, the Group met monthly and would be provided on the status of ongoing USACE or PANYNJ navigation projects, as the number of projects grew smaller and there were less issues, meetings became less frequent.

Examples of Results: Project Managers were afforded an opportunity to have an issue resolved at the meeting because the decision maker was present. If the issue could not be resolved immediately, then a path forward was agreed to. The early identification of issues and their prompt resolution lead to the Kill Van Kull and Newark Bay Channel, Port Jersey Channel, Arthur Kill Channel-Howland Hook Marine Terminal projects being completed on schedule and under budget and the NY & NJ Harbor (50 ft) on track for similar results.

Why this Process is Important to the Port and the Corps: The process was important because it established a clear line of communities and forum between all parties involved to discuss issues. Because it was limited to government agencies, they became comfortable with being open and honest about the issues and their positions.

Attachments (if any)