Preparing and Submitting Proposals for the Annual Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development (WRRDA Section 7001)

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Water Resources and Reform Development Act

• Signed into law on 6/10/2014
• Primary legislation by which Congress authorizes the Corps of Engineers’ key civil works missions.
• WRRDA is strictly an authorizing legislation; it does not include funding.
WRRDA 2014 Section 7001 Overview: Annual Report on Future Water Resources Development

- Identifies proposals for new study authorizations, new project authorizations, and modifications to existing project or feasibility study authorities
- Based, in part, on annual requests from non-Federal interests
- Secretary certifies proposals that have met five WRRDA criteria
- Proposals that don’t meet criteria are included in an appendix
What happens to the Report?

- ASA(CW) submits the Report to Congress by 1 February
- Congress may use the Report when it considers new authorizations for studies or projects, or changes to existing authorization
The Report Does NOT

- Inclusion in the Report does not provide authorization or appropriation for a study or project
- Inclusion in the Report does not constitute a recommendation for authorization or appropriation by USACE, ASA(CW) or the Administration
- The Report does not replace the new start selection process for studies or projects
- The Report does not prioritize studies or projects
Criteria For Inclusion in the Report
Established by Congress

1. Reports, proposed studies and modifications are related to USACE missions and authorities
2. Require specific congressional authorization
3. Have not been congressionally authorized
4. Have not been included in the main table of a previous annual report
5. If authorized could be carried out by USACE
Criteria for Inclusion of a New or Modified Study or Project

1. Related to USACE authorities and one or more of the core missions

USACE primary missions are navigation, flood risk management, and aquatic ecosystem restoration. Recreation, hydropower and/or water supply will be considered “related” when it is performed in conjunction with one or more of the primary mission(s).
Criteria for Inclusion of a New or Modified Study or Project

2. Required to have specific congressional authorization
   - Seeking New Study Authorization
     - New Feasibility study proposals
     - Proposed modifications to USACE study authorizations
   - Seeking Construction Authorization
     - Proposed Modifications to USACE projects
     - Proposals for an ongoing study that is expected to result in a Chief’s Report
     - Section 203 study proposals

Caveat: Construction can not start until a Chief’s Report is signed and transmitted by the Secretary to Congress
Criteria for Inclusion of a New or Modified Study or Project

3. Has not been previously congressionally authorized
4. Has not been included in a previous annual report (under 7001), **AND**
5. Able to be carried out by the USACE, if authorized
   - The decision document process must be followed and completed before a project or project modification can be recommended for construction
Annual Timeline

- May - Request for Proposals posted in the Federal Register
  - 20 May 2016
- 122 Days - Collection of Proposals (via online submission form wrrda7001proposals.us/)
  - 19 Sep 2016
- September thru January - Corps and OASA(CW) criteria evaluation
- 1 Feb - Report submitted to Congress
Section 7001 Webpage Resources

http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/ProjectPlanning.aspx

Click Here
Also available from USACE Homepage

http://www.usace.army.mil/

Click Here
The Proposal Submission Form
Information Each Submission Includes:

- Sponsor Name(s)
- Study or Project Purpose
- Estimated cost (Fed and non-Fed)
- Anticipated monetary and nonmonetary benefits
- Letter or statement of support
- Financial capability of Sponsor
- Map – Optional but highly recommended

Costs and Benefits estimates should use available information
Not Eligible for the Report

- Proposals for studies or projects that already have authorization.
- Proposals for modifications to non-Federal activities where USACE has provided previous technical assistance.

An example of this type of work is the Environmental Infrastructure Program, also known as Section 210 of the 1992 WRDA, as amended, as well as specific Environmental Infrastructure authorities. Authorization to provide technical assistance does not provide authorization of a water resources development project.
Not Eligible for the Report

- Proposals for construction of a new project unrelated to a currently authorized Corps project that is not the subject of a complete or ongoing feasibility study.
- Proposals that are not requesting a potential future water resources development study or project, for example requests for legislative changes and project deauthorizations.
The Appendix

- Proposals that do not meet the criteria or do not contain all the required information will not be included in the Annual Report, but will be included in an appendix, citing which criteria were not met.
For the Latest Information

- Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development / WRRDA 7001 Webpage
  - Includes Links to Fed Register Notice and Proposal Form
  - FAQs on the Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development (Updated as additional questions arise)
  - Questions? Email: wrrda7001proposal@usace.army.mil

Questions

For more information:

http://www.corpsplanning.us