Authority and Scope

Section 22 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1974, as amended, provides authority for the Corps of Engineers to assist states, local governments, federally-recognized Indian Tribes and other non-federal entities in the preparation of comprehensive plans for the development, utilization and conservation of water and related land resources.

What the Corps of Engineers Can Do

Under the Section 22 Program, the Corps of Engineers can provide technical planning assistance in all areas related to water resources development. The needed planning assistance is determined by the individual states and Tribes. Every year, each state and eligible Native American Indian Tribe provides the Corps of Engineers its request for studies under the program, and the Corps then accommodates as many studies as possible within the funding allotment.

Typical studies are only planning level of detail; they do not include detailed design for project construction. The studies generally involve the analysis of existing data for planning purposes using standard engineering techniques, although some data collection is often necessary. Most studies become the basis for state, Tribal, or local planning decisions.

The program can encompass many types of studies dealing with water resource issues. Types of studies conducted under Section 22 include, but are not limited to:

- flood damage reduction studies emphasizing structural and nonstructural measures
- bank stabilization studies
- water quality studies
- sedimentation studies
- fish and wildlife studies
- cultural resource studies
- ecosystem and watershed planning studies

Program Costs

Section 22 is funded annually by Congress. Assistance is limited to $2,000,000 in federal funds per state or Tribe per year. Individual studies, of which there may be more than one per state or Tribe per year, generally range in cost from $25,000 to over $100,000. These studies are cost-shared on a 50/50 basis (50 percent federal/50 percent non-federal sponsor). The study sponsor has the option of providing in-kind services, such as engineering analysis, economic analysis, etc., for up to 100 percent of its share of the study cost.

Requesting Assistance

To request assistance under the Section 22 Program, please visit www.usace.army.mil/Contact/OfficeLocator.aspx and type in a zip code to find the nearest Corps office.

Requests can be sent to the Planning Branch of the local Corps office.