

Director of Civil Works

Partner Update

MARCH 2021

Dear Valued Partner,

Our pursuit to revolutionize the way we do business by accelerating project delivery, enhancing operations and maintenance of our Nation's infrastructure, and collaborating with partners (like you) to solve the Nation's toughest challenges drives on. We are excited to work with the new Administration and new leaders on these endeavors. Some important efforts are highlighted below:

Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)

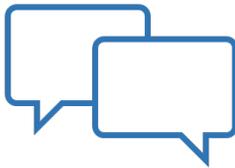
Partner Sessions: WRDA 2020 passed and can be found at:

<https://transportation.house.gov/imo/media/doc/BILLS-116s1811-SUS.pdf>. As the U.S. Army Corps of

Engineers, Civil Works

(USACE CW) begins to work on implementation guidance for applicable WRDA provisions, we intend to gather feedback from our partners. **Five partner sessions will be held every Tuesday starting on March 16 and concluding on April 13 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm Eastern.** For more information on these sessions and the public comment period to gather input on WRDA provisions, visit:

https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Project-Planning/Legislative-Lins/wrda_2020/.



Climate Change: The release of Executive Order (EO) 14008 on January 27, 2021 re-energized climate preparedness and resilience across the Federal Government. Climate change directly impacts USACE missions and operations. USACE has been incorporating climate preparedness and resilience into planning, design, operations, and maintenance for more than ten years. USACE dispatched Civil Works expertise to help the Department of Defense (DoD) advance quickly to meet the requirements of EO 14008. We have loaned our Climate Preparedness and Resilience Community of Practice leader to the DoD to help lead the DoD Climate Action Plan. We are also providing staff on details over the next year to assist DoD with climate change and water resilience, preparedness and resilience, sustainable buildings, energy, climate mitigation, sustainable nature-based solutions, and community climate resilience and environmental justice. For more information on



USACE climate preparedness and resilience, click here <https://www.usace.army.mil/corpsclimate/>.



Corps Water Infrastructure Financing Program (CWIFP)

Update: USACE received appropriations in the Fiscal 2021 Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act to develop our Federal loan program for dam safety projects in the National Inventory of Dams owned by non-Federal entities. To move forward with this important program, USACE must publish program rules for CWIFP and have requested to be included in the Spring 2021 Unified Agenda of Federal Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions through the Department of Defense. USACE will host partner webinars on the CWIFP to provide an overview of the program, describe the timeline, and answer questions. The webinars will be held on April 20 and 29 and will cover the same content; therefore, there is no need to attend both sessions. More information about CWIFP and the partner webinars can be found on our website at: <https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Infrastructure/revolutionize/CWIFP/>.



Continuing Authorities Program: The Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) is a group of nine authorities under which the USACE can plan, design, and construct small scale water resource projects without additional authorization by Congress. CAP is intended to quickly address small water resource challenges of non-Federal entities. Last year, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works and the USACE delegated important decision-making authority to Divisions and Districts to execute this valuable program more easily. Congress recognizes the value CAP provides to local communities and appropriated \$69.5M in fiscal year 2021 to address water resource challenges, including \$15M in Section 205 for small scale flood risk management projects. By improving the program through delegating decisions and additional flexibilities, the USACE is working to improve the execution of CAP to better address small water resource challenges across the Nation.

Regulatory Updates

Nationwide Permits: On January 13, 2021, USACE published a final rule reissuing 12 existing Nationwide Permits (NWP) and issuing four new NWP. These 16 NWP, that will go into effect on March 15, 2021, authorize minor impacts associated with certain



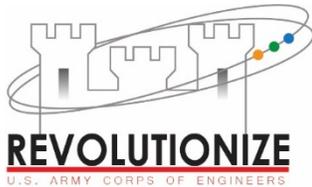
activities including transportation and energy infrastructure development and aquaculture. A second rule reissuing the remaining NWP's will be finalized later in 2021.

Assumable Waters: Following EPA approval under the Clean Water Act Section 404(g), the State of Florida, on December 22, 2020, assumed administration of the dredge and fill permitting program in certain waters of the State. USACE has worked with the State to ensure an orderly and efficient transfer of ongoing actions, and to clearly identify what actions will be retained by USACE.

General: The USACE Regulatory team continues to work with the Administration and partner agencies to assess how recent Executive Orders impact our programs and determine what, if any, changes need to be made in existing processes or guidance.

Revolutionize USACE CW Partner Webinars:

Two webinars were held in early February to provide an update on Revolutionize USACE CW and to hear from our partners on future activities. 160 external participants attended these webinars and a summary of discussion can be found at https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Infrastructure/revolutionize/rev_feedback/. The Revolutionize USACE CW team is incorporating relevant feedback into our efforts going forward.



Inside the Castle Podcast:

The Revolutionize USACE CW team posts a new podcast each week for our "Inside the Castle" podcast. The podcast goes behind castle doors to highlight how the USACE is working to solve some of the Nation's toughest challenges. March episodes will feature women in the workforce for Women's History Month, efforts by the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division on Revolutionizing, and the 150th birthday celebration of the Charleston District. **Check out the podcast by searching "Inside the Castle" on your favorite podcast platform.**



Continuous and transparent communication across USACE and with you is essential as we work together to achieve high value outcomes. A feedback form can be found on our website

<https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Infrastructure/revolutionize/> to provide your critical input.

Please reach out to our Revolutionize USACE Civil Works Team if you need additional information or to have a team member participate in an upcoming meeting. If you want to add additional staff to or be removed from this email distribution list, email us at:

cw.infrastructure.team@usace.army.mil.

If you have any questions, please contact us via email or call our Revolutionize USACE Civil Works Strategic Communication Team, Ms. Lauren Leuck, at 303-963-4522, or Ms. Angela Freyermuth, at 309-912-0192.

Thank you again for your continued support as we Revolutionize USACE Civil Works.

Al

ALVIN B. LEE
Director of Civil Works

