



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

04 SEP 2001

CECW-PM (1105)

MEMORANDUM FOR MAJOR SUBORDINATE AND DISTRICT COMMANDS

SUBJECT: Implementation of Section 222 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (WRDA 00) – Enhanced Public Participation

1. SEC 222. ENHANCED PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROVIDES:

(a) In General.--Section 905 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2282) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(e) Enhanced Public Participation.--

"(1) In general.-- The Secretary shall establish procedures to enhance public participation in the development of each feasibility study under subsection (a), including, if appropriate, establishment of a stakeholder advisory group to assist the Secretary with the development of the study.

"(2) Membership.-- If the Secretary provides for the establishment of a stakeholder advisory group under this subsection, the membership of the advisory group shall include balanced representation of social, economic, and environmental interest groups, and such members shall serve on a voluntary, uncompensated basis.

"(3) Limitation.-- Procedures established under this subsection shall not delay development of any feasibility study under subsection (a)."

2. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers employs a vigorous public involvement program as outlined in Appendix B of ER 1105-2-100. The following will be implemented to enhance the Corps public involvement program. These changes will be incorporated in the next version of ER 1105-2-100.

a. After the completion of the reconnaissance phase and execution of the Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement (FCSA), a public notice will be issued by the district. The public notice will indicate the results of the 905(b) analysis and anticipated future Federal interest and involvement in the feasibility phase. The public notice should indicate the name and phone number of the Corps project manager (PM) or point of contact, who will be responsible for public involvement and coordination.

b. Prior to conducting the feasibility scoping meeting (FSM), the Corps district will conduct a public workshop. An initial estimate of the scope of the feasibility study will be presented. Comments and concerns will be documented by the PM, presented at the FSM, and considered in the scoping of the feasibility study. If appropriate, this public workshop may

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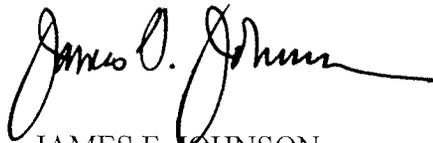
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be combined with any scoping meeting that may be held in accordance with Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) guideline 1501.7, in response to the National Environmental Policy Act scoping process.

c. Additional public workshops may be conducted as needed to enhance public participation throughout the feasibility phase.

d. The establishment of any stakeholder advisory group must follow the guidelines established in ER1105-2-100, Appendix B, paragraph B-10. Section 222 specifically indicates that members of a stakeholder advisory group shall serve on a voluntary, uncompensated basis. The Corps will not pay for salaries, travel, or per diem costs of group members. The establishment of any stakeholder advisory group shall not delay the development of any feasibility study.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



JAMES F. JOHNSON
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