



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
CIVIL WORKS
108 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20310-0108

MAY 01 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR OF CIVIL WORKS

SUBJECT: Implementation of Section 7009 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (WRDA 07)

1. Section 7009 of WRDA 07 directs the Secretary to establish the Louisiana Water Resources Council to serve as the exclusive peer review panel for activities conducted by the Corps of Engineers in the areas in the State of Louisiana declared as major disaster areas in accordance with section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) in response to Hurricane Katrina or Rita in accordance with Section 2034.

2. I understand that independent external peer review on those projects covered by Section 7009 is currently underway and has been ongoing since work was first initiated in those areas devastated by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita as described in the 18 April 2008, Program Management Plan (PgMP) for that work. That work should continue to proceed as described in the PgMP, until the Louisiana Water Resources Council is established. As described in the PgMP, the independent external peer review is being conducted for the project by independent reviewers. Consequently, there should be no delays in accomplishing independent external peer review while the panel is being established.

3. In order to fully comply with Section 7009, I am asking that you develop a detailed plan to establish the Louisiana Water Resources Council as the exclusive panel for independent external peer review of Louisiana projects as identified in the law, taking into account the full range of complicating factors, and report back to me no later than September 1, 2008. In the development of this plan, you should lay out the institutional framework of the Council including, but not limited to, how the Council will be established, how it will be constituted, how it will operate, how it will be funded, if the members are to be paid and how, as well as to address any FACA implications. In addition, I ask that you provide a recommended charter for this panel.

4. I look forward to your report and to working with you to insure that the Louisiana projects are appropriately peer reviewed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Paul Woodley, Jr.".

John Paul Woodley, Jr.
Assistant Secretary of the Army
(Civil Works)