**Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) of 2014**

**Section 1002. Consolidation of Studies**

**Report to Congress**

This annual report was prepared to meet the requirements of Section 1002, item 4(a), of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) of 2014. This report provides the status of detailed project schedules for all active feasibility studies as of 1 August 2016 that have been active more than ninety (90) days.

## Background

Section 1002 of WRRDA 2014 amends Section 905 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 1986 to establish a single phase cost-shared study process by repealing the requirement for a reconnaissance study first at full Federal expense and requiring instead that a preliminary analysis of the federal interest, cost, benefits and environmental impacts be done following execution of the Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement (FCSA). Additionally, Section 1002 requires certain reporting and notification of feasibility study schedules. This report responds to that reporting requirement.

Section 1002 established a requirement to notify Non-Federal interests of project schedules and milestones, and subsequent notification if a milestone is missed. Subsection 3 directs the Secretary as follows.

> *(3) NON-FEDERAL INTEREST NOTIFICATION.—Each District Engineer shall submit by certified mail the detailed project schedule under paragraph (2) to each relevant non-Federal interest—*
>
> *(A) for projects that have received funding from the General Investigations Account of the Corps of Engineers in the period beginning on October 1, 2009, and ending on the date of enactment of this subsection, not later than 180 days after the establishment of milestones under paragraph (1); and*
>
> *(B) for projects for which a feasibility cost-sharing agreement is executed after the establishment of milestones under paragraph (1), not later than 90 days after the date on which the agreement is executed.*

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers implementation guidance, dated 9 April 2015, set forth the following guidance for Districts to follow in order to provide this notification.

- For each active feasibility study funded in the Investigations appropriations, beginning on 1 October 2009 until 10 June 2014, the District Engineer (DE) must provide the detailed project schedule to each non-federal sponsor via certified mail by 10 June 2015.

- For each feasibility study initiated after 10 June 2014, the DE must provide the study milestone schedule to each non-federal sponsor via certified mail within ninety (90) days of signing the FCSA.

- If the DE fails to meet any of the scheduled milestone dates for studies listed above, the DE will submit a letter to the non-federal sponsor within thirty (30) days of the missed milestone. The letter will include reasons why the DE failed to meet the milestone and a revised schedule reflecting amended dates for the remaining feasibility milestones. The revised milestone schedule will be made publicly available.

Subsection 4 of Section 1002 directs the Secretary to submit an annual report of all feasibility studies and the detailed schedules that were provided to Non-Federal interests. The exact language is as follows.

> *(4) CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC NOTIFICATION.—Beginning in the first full fiscal year after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall—*
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> *(A) submit an annual report that lists all detailed project schedules under paragraph (2) and an explanation of any missed deadlines to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives; and*
>
> *(B) make publicly available, including on the Internet, a copy of the annual report described in subparagraph (A) not later than 14 days after date on which a report is submitted to Congress.*

**Fiscal Year 2016 Milestone Notification**

As required by Section 1002, the District Engineers provided data on study milestones, revised schedules, and explanations of missed milestones, as applicable. The following subset of established feasibility study milestones marking significant decision points were used for establishing detailed schedules and for notification and reporting purposes.

1. Release of draft feasibility report for public comment and concurrent review
2. District submits final feasibility report
3. MSC final transmittal of final feasibility report
4. Civil Works Review Board (CWRB)

5. Signed Chief's Report

Table 1 captures the schedules for studies and provides explanations for missed milestones. Vertical team approval is required before a revised schedule is reported.