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

MAR 10 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CIVIL WORKS

SUBJECT: Implementation of Section 2031, Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2007

1. Among the many provisions of WRDA requiring attention, few if any are more important than Section 2031, directing the Secretary of the Army to revise the Principles and Guidelines (P&G) and to issue principles and guidelines specific to the Army Civil Works program. The Principles and Guidelines shape the entire Civil Works water resources investment program and determine the Army's capacity to meet the Nation's water resources needs for the benefit of current and future generations. I appreciate the informative and professional briefings and discussion from your staff on alternatives for proceeding with implementation of this Section.

2. Based on our discussions, I ask that you proceed to support revision of the P&G in accordance with the statute and the following considerations:

a. Part I revision.

(1) Principles and Standards. As the first part of this revision, please immediately initiate expedited implementation of an updated decision making framework (Principles) and associated planning process (Standards, Chapter 1 of the Guidelines) to support and inform these decisions. I would like to complete this first phase of revision by November 2008. Completion of this phase will ensure that the Army Corps of Engineers attains a predictable, stable, and transparent planning framework for developing the Nation's critical water resources investment program.

(2) Multiple objectives. Subject to due consideration of consultation and public involvement, please pursue revisions in a manner that ensures flexibility to formulate and recommend projects that address the objectives of public safety, national economic development, environmental quality including protection and restoration, and other social effects. Regional economic development effects of alternative plans also need to be displayed. The Army will continue to found Civil Works policy on the long standing natural resources management principles.

(3) Agency Consultation. Please work with me to establish the necessary Consultation Group of Federal agency representatives that Section 2031 requires. We have a history of success with the Federal Principals Group formed for ongoing large studies, and I ask that you consider this group as the core of the interagency consultation team and add such agency representation as required to fill out the full

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agency representation that the statute specifies. The Office of Management and Budget should be invited to attend meetings of the Consultation Group, and the process should comply with the requirements of the OMB Bulletin "Agency Good Guidance Practices".

(4) National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Consultation. Please proceed immediately to establish an NAS panel to provide independent consultation to satisfy Section 2031.

(5) Delivery Team. Please establish your delivery team for this part of the revision and charge them with preparing and maintaining a schedule to complete this task by November 2008. Also ask this team to establish regular meetings with my staff to ensure seamless adoption and implementation.

(6) Costs and funding. I anticipate that Army and Corps Headquarters staffing and general expenses should be sufficient to cover Part I of the revision.

b. Part II revision.

(1) Procedures. The segments of the current Principles and Guidelines not covered by the Part I revision are the procedures chapters of the Guidelines: Chapter II, entitled National Economic Development (NED) Benefit Evaluation Procedures and Chapter III entitled Environmental Quality (EQ) Evaluation Procedures as well as two appendices dealing with documentation formats and relationships between EIS requirements and procedures. These procedures comprise most of the existing guidelines.

(2) Best science. Detailed procedures are critical to a fully transparent evaluation and appraisal of water resources plan alternatives to inform decision makers. These procedures must be based on the best available science including economics and ecology. Since the existing procedures were promulgated in 1983, economic and environmental evaluation methods have improved. The Corps has integrated many of these advances in existing planning guidance. A comprehensive review should be conducted to assess the 1983 procedures and develop a strategy to revise them to reflect best science.

(3) Actions. Consistent with available funding and resources, please immediately undertake actions aimed at revising the detailed procedures in Chapters II and III and Appendices A and B. The following considerations apply:

(a) Literature review. The initial phase of this effort should review the literature and assess the need for revisions to form the basis for a detailed plan to complete the second part of P&G revision.

(b) Scope of work and delivery schedule. Based on the literature review and assessment of the need for revisions to the detailed procedures, please prepare a

recommended scope of work and delivery schedule for such a revision. A cost estimate and staffing plan should be an integral part of this document. Please provide the draft scope of work for review by this office.

(c) Funding. If your appraisal finds that extensive efforts are needed to revise the detailed procedures under Section 2031, our current annual levels of general expense funding may not be adequate to complete such a revision. If Fiscal Year 2008 Expenses account funds are not adequate to complete a literature review, scope of work and delivery schedule with cost estimate for completing the revision of the procedures, please advise this office.

(d) Budgeting. The scope of work and delivery schedule will form the basis for budgetary and funding decisions related to completing the second part of the revision of the P&G. Please include alternative funding scenarios for getting this critical revision completed as soon as possible. At least one scenario should be implementable within the amount for Expenses in the President's FY 2009 Budget.

3. I look forward to working with you and your staff to complete this important effort and ensure the Army Corps of Engineers remains vibrant and relevant to meeting the Nation's water resources needs.

John Paul Woodley, Jr.

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

Schedule for Revision of the Principles and Standards

Date	
15-Dec-07	PDT Identified and Intiates Work including drafting of revised P&S
5-Mar-08	Assistant Secretary signs Memorandum to DCW
15-Mar-08	**Conclude Consultation Plan Agreement with WSTB** **-- IWR initiates compilation of past NAS reports on Corps** **-- Set target date for NRC written response to compilation not later than July 15, 2008.** **-- Set target date for 2 day work shop on draft P&S** **-- Set in motion contract with NAS**
31-Mar-08	**Federal Agency Consultation Team is established**
15-Apr-08	**IWR completes Corps compilation of past NAS reports and recommendation on Corps planning relevant to P&S Revision as well as comments on P&S revision from the public and legislative record**
15-May-08	PDT completes **first draft P&S Revision** -- Begin 30 day review by Federal Consultation Group
15-Jun-08	**Draft P&S Revision is released** -- Consistent with OMB Bulletin, notice of availability of the draft is published in the Federal Register and comments are due in 30 days
15-Jul-08	Public comments received
15-Jul-08	PDT begins adjustments to draft P&S Revision -- incorporate relevant comments -- prepare responses to all comments
15-Aug-08	Complete Revised **Draft P&S Package including** **-- Revised Draft Principles and Standards** -- Responses to comments -- Submit to agency Coordination Group for 30 day review -- Provide package and documents to WSTB to support P&S Workshop -- Circulate within Army/Corps for 30 day concurrent review
15-Sep-08	Receive Agency Panel and ASA/HQ Comments and Start any iterations or negotiations
30-Sep-08	**WSTB 2 Day P & S Workshop (culimination of NAS consultation; a written record of the workshop will be provided later)**
30-Sep-08	PDT works to complete and release P&S Revision -- Work with Agency Consultation Group -- Prepare the final revision -- Incorporate results of the 2 day WSTB workshop
15-Nov-08	**Release Revised Principles and Standards** -- In accordance with the OMB Bulletin, * Publish the Revised P&S and comments-respones on the internet * Publish a notice of availability of the revised P&S in the Federal Register -- In accordance with WRDA, send package to Hill explaining changes
15-Nov-08	**Decision on Procedures** -- Corps Completes Recommendaton for Procedures -- ASA Decision and Guidance

Notes:

Schedule depends on continued viability of WSTB consultation plan on behalf of NAS.