



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

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

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

CECW-AA

18 OCT 1996

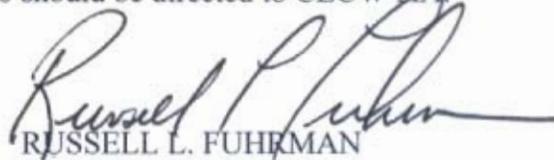
MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Implementation of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (WRDA 96)

1. The Water Resources Development Act of 1996 was signed into law by the President on 12 October 1996. The Act affords us the opportunity to preserve and develop the Nation's water resources infrastructure. It includes a significant number of environmental provisions and increases the non-Federal share to 35 percent for both structural and non-structural flood damage reduction projects and for environmental protection projects. The law also provides for consistent cost sharing for dredged material disposal facilities constructed for the operation and maintenance of Federal channels and harbors. In addition, it contains provisions with the potential for adverse program effects which must be managed through implementation activities and through the budget process. In view of the current Federal fiscal constraints, we must prudently manage program resources and insure that implementation efforts are consistent with Administration programs and policies.

2. The implementation approach adopted after enactment of the most recent WRDA's will generally be followed to implement WRDA 96. Each provision of the Act will be reviewed and implementing guidance issued after coordination with the appropriate elements within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and with the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works).

3. Divisions and districts are requested to refrain from making any commitments based on interpretations of the provisions of WRDA 96 prior to receiving guidance from this Headquarters. For each provision you will receive some implementing guidance in the near future. Questions on implementing WRDA 96 should be directed to CECW-AA.


RUSSELL L. FUHEMAN
Major General, USA
Director of Civil Works