

SOUTH ATLANTIC DIVISION

STATUS REPORT ON CIVIL WORKS ACTIVITIES

FISCAL YEAR 2003

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BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND WATER  
DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

27 FEBRUARY 2002

STATUS REPORT ON THE CIVIL WORKS ACTIVITIES  
IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC DIVISION  
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INTRODUCTION

Mr. Chairman, and distinguished members of the Committee, I am pleased to present the status report on the Civil Works activities of the South Atlantic Division.

DIVISION AREA

The South Atlantic Division is responsible for Civil Works activities in all or part of seven southeastern states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. This area covers about 260,000 square miles and includes about 13 percent of the national population. Implementation of the Civil Works program is conducted through District offices located in Mobile, Alabama, Jacksonville, Florida, Savannah, Georgia, Wilmington, North Carolina, and Charleston, South Carolina. Management and oversight of the program are provided by the South Atlantic Division Headquarters located in Atlanta, Georgia.

OVERALL BUDGET

The President's Fiscal Year 2003 Budget request includes \$605,698,000 for Civil Works activities in the South Atlantic Division. This amount will allow for effective study and project execution and continued operation and maintenance.

GENERAL INVESTIGATIONS

The General Investigations Program allows for the planning, evaluation and initial design of solutions to water resource problems throughout the region.

FISCAL YEAR 2002

During Fiscal Year 2002, some important activities will be accomplished with funds previously provided. These activities include the reconnaissance study to determine the federal interest in flood control damage protection for many of the streams around the Metropolitan Atlanta, Georgia area, flood damage reduction along the Broad River in South Carolina, and shore protection for Pawley's Island, South Carolina. Navigation studies will be completed to determine the feasibility of constructing the Hillsboro Inlet and deepen and widen Port Everglades Harbor in Florida. The phase I, hydrologic model will be completed for the Biscayne Bay, Florida study. Initial studies will be completed for the Dade County Water Reuse facility. The review of the locally prepared General Reevaluation Report and Plans and Specifications for the Broward County Beach Erosion Control, Florida project will be completed. Environmental studies will be completed on Comprehensive Environmental Restoration Plan Southern Golden Gates Estates and Central and Southern Florida Water Preserve Areas and Indian River Lagoon studies in Florida. Preconstruction Engineering and Design will be completed for the Bodie Island portion of the Dare County, North Carolina project.

FISCAL YEAR 2003

The Fiscal Year 2003 General Investigations request of \$6,049,000 will allow for continuing study activities and pre-construction engineering and design.

#### SURVEYS

##### NEW

There are no funds included in the President's Budget request for Fiscal Year 2003 to initiate new study activities. Efforts to evaluate new water resource problems and develop solutions will be delayed resulting in delays to construction of projects to reduce flood damage, improve navigation, and restore environmental conditions.

##### CONTINUING

Navigation studies will continue to evaluate training works and other alternatives to increase the navigation availability on the Alabama River Below Claiborne Lock and Dam, locate a more efficient route from Bayou La Batre to the Gulf of Mexico, and ways to reduce severe silting problems in Dog River in Alabama, and evaluate the need to deepen and widen the navigation channel at Lake Worth Inlet in Florida. Flood damage protection studies will continue to identify solutions to flood damage and environmental problems in Baldwin County in Foley along Wolf Bay and Weeks Bay, in Daphne at Lake Forest and along the headwaters of Styx River, damage to homes in Brewton and East Brewton in Alabama; flood control and environmental protection measures in the Hillsborough River Basin, and comprehensive planning for flood control measures in the Withlacoochee River Basin in Florida; resolve problems in the City of Augusta, Richmond County, Georgia and; water quality and environmental improvements for the Neuse River in North Carolina; and water quality and fish and wildlife habitat improvement on the Waccamaw River in South Carolina; and improve the hydrologic regime basin around the John H. Kerr Dam and Reservoir, North Carolina. Flood damage to facilities along Lubbub Creek, Alabama is being executed under the Continuing Authorities Program. Shoreline protection studies will continue to evaluate the severe erosion problems to reduce shoreline erosion and storm induced damages in Baldwin County, Alabama; explore shore protection alternatives along Bogue Banks, engineering studies of shoreline changes in the Hatteras and Ocracoke portion of Dare County to include the North Carolina Highway 12 transportation system, address the shore erosion issues and explore shore protection alternatives at Surf City and North Topsail Beach in North Carolina. Special studies are continuing on engineering, economic, and environmental investigations to address flooding associated with storm water runoff and flood damage reduction needs in the Cahaba River Watershed, develop a comprehensive water resource plan for Tuscaloosa, identify potential alternatives that would alleviate flood damages along Village Creek in the Birmingham Watershed in Alabama; determine the erosion effects of the Etowah River and Little River along the shoreline of Allatoona Lake, determine if the earthen dam and a firing range within the Stevenson Creek watershed are potentially contributing to the degradation of the ecosystem in the Arabia Mountain preserve, analyze water resource problems in the Metropolitan Atlanta Watershed with separate analysis of water resource issues along Long Island, Marsh and Johns Creeks, Indian, Sugar, Intrenchment and Federal Creeks and Utoy, Sandy and Proctor Creeks, evaluate the high salinity levels, low dissolved oxygen, the nature of the tidal estuary, and the complicated hydraulic processes in the Savannah Harbor Ecosystem in Georgia; address increased salinity, water quality issues, explore environmental protection and restoration alternatives in Currituck Sound, flood damage reduction, stream bank stabilization, and aquatic ecosystem restoration on Reedy Creek, determine the need for wetland restoration and

protection in the Santee River Delta in South Carolina; review operation of the major reservoirs in the Savannah River Basin in Georgia. Comprehensive studies continue to identify extensive flooding, floodplain delineation, and riparian ecosystem restoration in the Broad River Basin in South Carolina. Review the Savannah Harbor Sediment Control Structure in Georgia to determine the appropriate disposition of the structure. Review of environment and navigation problems is continuing on the authorized Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway and review of the Charleston Harbor to determine if modifications are required in South Carolina.

#### PRECONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING AND DESIGN

Pre-construction engineering and design will continue on navigation projects to deepen and widen Port Everglades Harbor and enlarge the St. Petersburg Harbor in Florida; to repair the New Savannah Bluff Lock and Dam project to include a fish lift to turn the project over to local interests and channel improvements for the Savannah Harbor Expansion project in Georgia. Dune and berm design will continue for the beach erosion control project on Pawleys Island, South Carolina. Design will continue on the flood control facilities on the Rio Nigua at Salinas in Puerto Rico.

#### CONSTRUCTION

The Construction Program allows for the implementation of projects to correct water resource problems that burden the area.

#### FISCAL YEAR 2002

Important work will be accomplished in the region with funds previously appropriated. This effort includes completion of construction of the Palm Valley Bridge over the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway in Jacksonville and reimbursement to the local sponsor for work completed on Port Everglades Harbor in Florida. The Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina project was nourished to provide storm damage protection.

#### FISCAL YEAR 2003

The President's Budget request includes \$290,700,000 for the construction program. These funds will allow for the continuing construction of important water resources projects.

#### NEW

There are no projects included in the President's Budget request on which to initiate construction. The emphasis is on completing projects that have been initiated. While this is a good strategy, it has the potential of creating a gap in construction technology and experience. Employee experience will be limited. Once the program is funded again, there may be difficulty having experienced personnel to execute the program.

#### CONTINUING

#### MOBILE HARBOR, ALABAMA

Mobile Harbor is a major port on the southwest coast of Alabama. Construction will continue this year to extend the 45 feet deep by 400 feet wide navigation channel approximately 2,100 feet to the north. Efforts will

continue on the planning, engineering and design to deepen the project to 55 feet.

#### CANAVERAL HARBOR SAND BYPASS, FLORIDA

Canaveral Harbor is located in Brevard County on the shore of Cape Canaveral. Construction will continue on the South Jetty Extension, initiate permanent sand tightening the North Jetty and to bypass sand across the harbor entrance.

#### JACKSONVILLE HARBOR, FLORIDA

Jacksonville Harbor is a major port on the northeast coast of Florida handling bulk products including petroleum and coal. Construction is providing a deeper channel.

#### MIAMI HARBOR CHANNEL, FLORIDA

The Miami Harbor Channel located on the eastern Florida coast was being constructed by the local sponsor to provide navigation improvements in support of commercial vessel traffic. The local sponsor has requested the Corps of Engineers take over construction of the project. Requested funds will be used to continue project construction.

#### PANAMA CITY HARBOR, FLORIDA

Design is underway to deepen the Gulf approach channel and inter harbor channels for the Panama City Harbor project located on the northwest coast of Florida. Requested funds will allow for initial construction.

#### BRUNSWICK HARBOR, GEORGIA

Brunswick Harbor is located on the Georgia coast about 80 miles south of Savannah. Construction will continue to deepen the entrance and inner harbor channels to support deeper draft ships.

#### LOWER SAVANNAH RIVER BASIN, GEORGIA

Construction will continue for the Lower Savannah River Basin, Georgia project. The project provides for a diversion structure and channel work to restore environmental conditions.

#### PASCAGOULA HARBOR, MISSISSIPPI

Construction is continuing to deepen and widen the Pascagoula Harbor channel located on the coast of Mississippi to include deepening and widening the channel into Bayou Casotte and to construct a confined dredge material disposal facility.

#### WILMINGTON HARBOR, 1996 ACT, NORTH CAROLINA

Construction will continue to provide channel improvements in Wilmington Harbor located on the southern coast of North Carolina. Construction includes deepening and widening the channel for a distance of about 30 miles, providing a passing lane to allow large vessels to pass safely, deepening and widening portions of the Northeast Cape Fear River in the upper reaches of Wilmington Harbor in support of deep draft navigation, as well as raising the dikes to increase the capacity of the dredged material disposal area.

#### SAN JUAN HARBOR, PUERTO RICO

Project construction to deepen and widen the Bar Channel, deepen Anegado and Army Terminal Channels to 40 feet, deepen Puerto Nuevo Channel to 39 feet and Graving Dock Channel to 36 feet will be completed with the requested funds.

#### CHARLESTON HARBOR, DEEPENING AND WIDENING, SOUTH CAROLINA

Requested funds for Charleston Harbor, South Carolina will allow for continuing construction to provide a deeper channel in support of bulk and containerized cargo vessels, along with development of the Clouter Creek disposal area.

#### BRUNSWICK COUNTY BEACHES, NORTH CAROLINA

The shoreline protection project is located in Brunswick County, North Carolina. Construction will continue with design to provide a sand dune and berm system to provide shoreline protection along the Holden Beach, Oak Island, and Caswell Beach portion of the project.

#### WEST ONSLOW BEACH AND NEW RIVER INLET, NORTH CAROLINA

The authorized project for West Onslow Beach and New River Inlet, North Carolina provides for flood damage protection along three miles of oceanfront at Topsail Beach on the southern end of Topsail Island. The requested funds will be used to continue planning for the Topsail Beach portion of the project.

#### OATES CREEK, RICHMOND COUNTY, GEORGIA

Channel improvements and flood control measures will continue on Oates Creek to improve flood protection to Richmond County, Georgia residents and industry.

#### ARECIBO RIVER, PUERTO RICO

The Arecibo River basin drains about 272 square miles near San Juan, Puerto Rico. Construction will continue to provide channel improvements, floodwalls and levees to protect against flooding.

#### PORTUGUES AND BUCANA RIVERS, PUERTO RICO

The Portugues and Bucana Rivers project provides flood protection to Ponce, Puerto Rico through the construction of two high level dams and channel improvements. The Cerrillos Dam is substantially complete. Construction is underway on the Portugues Debris Basin shoal removals that will complete the channel work. Construction is also underway on the Portugues thin arch concrete dam.

#### RIO DE LA PLATA, PUERTO RICO

The Rio de la Plata basin drains about 240 square miles at a point 11 miles West of San Juan, Puerto Rico. Design is underway for channel improvements and levees while the project sponsor acquires the real estate for facility construction.

#### RIO GRANDE DE MANATI, PUERTO RICO

The Rio Grande de Manati project provides for levees and channel improvements in the vicinity of Barceloneta, Puerto Rico to protect against flooding. Land acquisition by local interests is underway. Levee construction will continue with the requested funds.

#### RIO PUERTO NUEVO, PUERTO RICO

The Rio Puerto Nuevo drainage basin is located within the San Juan Metropolitan Area along the northern coast of Puerto Rico. Construction is underway for the 11.2 miles of channel and canal improvements to provide flood protection for metropolitan San Juan.

#### ROANOKE RIVER, UPPER BASIN, VIRGINIA, HEADWATERS AREA

The Roanoke River Upper Basin project provides flood protection facilities for the City of Roanoke, Virginia. A flood warning system has been constructed. Construction is underway for channel improvements and training walls along with continued monitoring of the Log Perch.

#### RICHARD B. RUSSELL DAM AND LAKE, GEORGIA AND SOUTH CAROLINA

The Richard B. Russell Dam and Lake project on the Savannah River near Elberton, Georgia is about 97 percent complete. Testing is complete to allow operation of the turbines in the pump-back mode with minimal harm to fish populations. Testing to date has provided positive results toward successful operations. Environmental monitoring of fishery and water quality is underway. Oxygenation systems are being placed in the project area to mitigate fish habitat losses.

#### HARTWELL LAKE DIVERSION DAMS, GEORGIA

Design is underway this year on the Hartwell Lake Diversion Dam, Georgia project under the Dam Safety Program. Construction will be initiated with the requested funds for seismic deficiencies remediation to protect property at Clemson University.

#### CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN FLORIDA, FLORIDA

The Central and Southern Florida project includes all or part of 18 counties in central and south Florida. Construction is continuing on spillway structures, canals, levees, and water control structures to provide flood protection, floodplain preservation, and water quality enhancement in the Upper St. Johns River basin. Construction is also continuing on the locks, channels, and canals for Manatee Pass-Through Gates. Construction is underway for the West Palm Beach Canal to provide flood protection for the agricultural areas, along with other work specifically directed by the Congress. Funds are included for engineering and design activities associated with the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan.

#### EVERGLADES AND SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION, FLORIDA

Identification and prioritization of projects to restore the Everglades and South Florida ecosystem has been completed. Evaluation reports have been approved for 12 projects. Design effort will be completed and construction will be initiated on the most critical projects. Execution of nine of the highest priority projects will exhaust the \$75 million authorized to be appropriated for this effort. The remainder of the proposed projects will be

included as part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan for execution. Projects currently underway include the Florida Keys Carrying Capacity, East Coast Canal Structures, Tamiami Trail Culverts, and Southern Crew.

#### KISSIMMEE RIVER, FLORIDA

Channel and canal construction and floodway control structure modifications are underway for the Kissimmee River environmental restoration project, located in central Florida. The project provides for filling a portion of the canal to restore the natural meandering river flows to improve environmental conditions.

#### WALTER F. GEORGE, POWERHOUSE AND DAM, ALABAMA

The navigation lock and gated spillway of the Walter F. George project is located on the Chattahoochee River near Montgomery, Alabama. Construction will continue to provide a concrete cutoff wall upstream of the structure to prevent water from seeping under the facility and erosion and piping of the limestone foundation. A review of the construction procedures and techniques indicates the project cost estimate may be greater than anticipated.

#### WALTER F. GEORGE, POWERPLANT, ALABAMA

Construction is continuing to rehabilitate the Walter F. George power plant project located on the Chattahoochee River between Alabama and Georgia. The plan of improvement is to refurbish the four turbines, replace the exciters and rewind the generators.

#### JIM WOODRUFF POWERHOUSE, FLORIDA

Construction is underway to rehabilitate the Jim Woodruff power plant. Work involves replacing the three turbines, rewinding the three generators, and replacing the transformers to reduce maintenance costs and improve power production efficiency.

#### BUFORD POWERHOUSE, GEORGIA

Continuing construction for the Buford powerhouse project in Georgia just northeast of Atlanta will allow for the rehabilitation of the power plant. Work involves replacing the three turbines, the exciters, and rewinding the three generators.

#### HARTWELL LAKE POWERHOUSE, GEORGIA AND SOUTH CAROLINA

The Hartwell Lake Powerhouse is located on the Savannah River about 89 miles north of Augusta, Georgia. The rehabilitation project is underway to rewind four generator units, refurbish the turbines, and to replace key electrical components to reduce operation and maintenance cost and to improve power production efficiency.

#### J. STROM THURMOND LAKE POWERHOUSE, GEORGIA AND SOUTH CAROLINA

Rewinding seven generators and replacing the turbine rotating parts are underway at the J. Strom Thurmond Lake Powerhouse. The effort will improve the overall project reliability, reduce operation and maintenance costs, and provide additional hydropower capacity and power revenues.

## JOHN H. KERR DAM AND RESERVOIR, VIRGINIA AND NORTH CAROLINA

The John H. Kerr Dam and Reservoir power facilities, located in north central North Carolina and south central Virginia is in need of rehabilitation. Construction will continue to rewind the generator units, refurbish the turbines, and replace key electrical and mechanical equipment in order to improve overall reliability of the project, reduce operation and maintenance costs, and provide additional hydropower capacity and power revenues.

### OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

The Operation and Maintenance Program provides for the operation, repair, service and up-keep of the infrastructure and activities to insure that completed projects fulfill their authorized purposes.

### FISCAL YEAR 2002

In Fiscal Year 2002, available funds are being used to provide essential work on 53 harbor and channel projects; seven waterways containing locks and dams, four flood control projects, two flood protection projects, and 13 multiple purpose projects that include hydropower production while also conducting project condition surveys and the removal of aquatic growth, along with the operation and maintenance of appropriate recreation facilities. The available amount includes funds added by the Congress for additional work on several specific projects. These include: additional dredging in Alabama Coosa Rivers, Bayou Coden, Bayou La Batre, Black Warrior and Tombigbee Rivers, Dauphin Island, Mobile Harbor, Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway in Alabama; Canaveral Harbor, Carrabelle Harbor, Clearwater Pass, Fort Pierce Harbor, Miami River, Naples to Big Marco Pass, New Pass and Suwanee River in Florida; Savannah Harbor, Georgia; Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, Lockwoods Folly River, Masonboro Inlet, and Morehead City Harbor in North Carolina; and Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, Murrells Inlet, and Port Royal Harbor in South Carolina. Additional funds were provided to accomplish environmental dredging on the Apalachicola, Chattahoochee, and Flint Rivers system, and additional funds for the Tennessee-Tombigbee Wildlife Mitigation project. Additional funds were provided for work at multiple purpose power projects at Miller's Ferry Lock and Dam and Robert F. Henry Lock and Dam in Alabama and Allatoona Lake and Carter's Lake in Georgia.

### PROJECT SECURITY

Civil Works projects are being analyzed to determine their vulnerability to damage by small groups or individuals in a terrorist attack. Security measures are being accomplished. Such activities include installing security cameras, building fences, and restricting access to the areas. Each project is evaluated to determine the appropriate measures for that facility.

### CRITICAL BACKLOG

As stewards of a diverse and widespread complex of water resources projects, the Corps of Engineers is challenged to ensure the continued flow of benefits, which are so critical to our nation's security and economic well-being. With such a vast inventory of water resources projects throughout the region, the need for routine maintenance, major repairs, replacement of outdated or worn facilities, management improvement studies and correction of

environmental is forever present. We continue a concerted effort to identify the highest priority work on which to concentrate available resources. While attempts are made to are made to address the most critical of these requirements throughout the year when, and if, funds become available from savings and slippages, but a much larger infusion of funds will be required to preserve the integrity of the region's water resources infrastructure and thus insure our future security and economic well-being.

#### FISCAL YEAR 2003

#### OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

The largest category of our Fiscal Year 2003 Budget request is for operation and maintenance. We are requesting \$308,949,000 to insure that completed projects fulfill their authorized purposes.

#### NAVIGATION PROJECTS

Our request includes \$180,103,000 for navigation, which allows us to maintain 29 major harbors and other small harbor and channel projects. Along with our harbors, our 3,800 miles of inland waterways with 33 locks and dams are vital to waterborne commerce, both domestic and international.

#### FLOOD CONTROL PROJECTS

Flood control projects account for \$19,724,000 of our request. These projects have prevented flood damages valued in excess of \$1 billion over the past 50 years.

#### MULTIPLE PURPOSE PROJECTS

The 13 Multiple purpose projects which we operate and maintain account for \$103,939,000 of our operation and maintenance request. The Budget proposes that \$40,463,000 in hydropower activities be funded directly from Power Marketing Administration receipts. These projects provide a variety of benefits, including hydropower production. They generated 2.8 million megawatt hours of power last year resulting in sales revenues of \$111 million.

#### PROTECTION OF NAVIGATION

Protecting navigation on our waterways is vital to the economic wellbeing of the nation. We are requesting \$5,183,000 for this purpose, which includes project condition surveys and the removal of aquatic growth.

#### CONCLUSION

The South Atlantic Division continues, with your support, to have an important and active Civil Works program for the public in the southeastern United States. Located as we are in the City of Atlanta, we believe that we are well positioned, with demonstrated ability, to continue the tradition of engineering excellence in the service of the citizens of this great region. Mr. Chairman that concludes the status report for this year.

