



US Army Corps  
of Engineers<sup>®</sup>

# *Rock Island District* **Civil Works Policy Guidebook**

*Continuing Authorities Program,  
Planning Assistance to States, and  
Floodplain Management Services*

August 2025

## Introduction

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the Nation's primary water resources development agency. Congress assigned the Corps of Engineers this civil works responsibility.

The Corps of Engineers' water resources program began in 1824 when Congress provided funds for improving river navigation. Since then, the Corps of Engineers has been involved in developing recreation and commercial navigation, reducing flood damage, and restoring ecosystems. Along with these missions, the Corps of Engineers generates hydropower, makes water supply available to cities and industry, and regulates development along navigable waters.

The Corps of Engineers is responsible for the Inland Waterway Navigation System, which includes the locks and dams on the Mississippi River and Illinois Waterway. We are also involved with river habitat, managing the Upper Mississippi River System - Environmental Management Program, which focuses on habitat rehabilitation and enhancement projects, such as island creation and wetland enhancement, as well as long-term resource monitoring. We have also worked with many communities to plan, design and construct flood risk management projects.

The primary mission areas of the Corps of Engineers are:

- Commercial Navigation
- Flood Risk Management
- Ecosystem Restoration
- Emergency Response
- Recreation
- Federal Real Estate Management
- Regulatory Program and Permit

The following provides information on the services that the Corps of Engineers can provide sponsors and partners.

If your community, local or state government, or non-government organization is seeking a partner to assist with a water and related land resources study or project, call our office or send a letter to the address below. A sample letter is provided for reference.

District Engineer  
U.S. Army Engineer District, Rock Island  
ATTN: Planning, Programs and Project Management Division  
Clock Tower Building - P.O. Box 2004  
Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004  
Phone: (309) 794-5341  
Email: [customeroutreach@usace.army.mil](mailto:customeroutreach@usace.army.mil)

## Rock Island District Points of Contact for General Inquiries and Assistance:

### Jim

*Continuing Authorities Program,  
Floodplain Management Services &  
Planning Assistance to States*

**Phone:** (309) 794-5704

### Outreach and Customer Service:



## Useful Links and Resources:

### Sample Letter for General Request for Assistance

[Type/Print on Official Letterhead]

(Date)

District Engineer  
U.S. Army Engineer District, Rock Island  
ATTN: Planning, Programs and Project Management Division  
Clock Tower Building  
P.O. Box 2004  
Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004

Dear Colonel XXX:

In accordance with the USACE authority [*insert the name of the authority*], the [*state, city, county, town, non-profit organization*] is requesting U.S. Army Corps of Engineers assistance in addressing an [*state your problem including, as appropriate, the proposed study area, a list of any public infrastructure or endangered species that might be treated, photographs of problem area, and any other supporting documents.*]

In the closing [*state the Point of Contact for the effort, title, phone and email.*]

Sincerely,

Signature and Title

### Links to Model Project Partnership Agreements:

Model Ecosystem Restoration PPA

[http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Project-Partnership-Agreements/model\\_er/](http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Project-Partnership-Agreements/model_er/)

Model Structural FRM PPA

[http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Project-Partnership-Agreements/model\\_sfrm/](http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Project-Partnership-Agreements/model_sfrm/)

Model FCSA for feasibility planning study

[http://www.usace.army.mil/Portals/2/docs/civilworks/Project%20Planning/ppa/19251\\_28oct2016.docx?ver=2016-11-07-100659-017](http://www.usace.army.mil/Portals/2/docs/civilworks/Project%20Planning/ppa/19251_28oct2016.docx?ver=2016-11-07-100659-017)

## Overview of Authorities:

Continuing Authorities Program					
Purpose	Types of Projects	Authority	Feasibility Phase Cost Share Federal/Non-Federal	Implementation Phase Cost Share Federal/Non-Federal	Federal Project Limit
Project Modifications for Improvements to the Environment	Modifications to Corps structures, operations, or implementation of measures in affected areas	Section 1135 of Water Resources Development Act of 1986, as amended	100% / 0% for initial \$100,000; 50%/50% remaining cost	75% / 25%	\$15 million
Beneficial Use of Dredge Materials	Creation of aquatic and wetland habitats in conjunction with construction or maintenance dredging of Federal Navigation Projects	Section 204 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992	100% / 0%	65% / 35% <sup>1,2</sup>	\$15 million
Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration	Manipulation of the hydrology in and along bodies of water, including wetlands and riparian areas	Section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996	100% / 0% for initial \$100,000; 50% / 50% remaining cost	65% / 35%	\$15 million
Emergency Stream Bank and Shoreline Protection	Construction of bank protection for endangered highways, bridge approaches, municipal water supply systems, sewage disposal plants, churches, hospitals, schools, and non-profit public services and known cultural sites that are endangered by flood-caused bank and shoreline erosion.	Section 14, 1946 Flood Control Act, as amended	100%/0% for initial \$100,000; 50%/50% remaining cost	65% / 35%	\$15 million
Small Flood Risk Management Projects	Projects can include levees, floodwalls, impoundments, pumping stations, and channel modifications as well as non-structural measures. Non-structural measures can be flood proofing, relocation of structures, and flood warning and preparedness systems.	Section 205 of the Flood Control Act of 1948, as amended	100% / 0% for initial \$100,000; 50% / 50% remaining cost	65% / 35% <sup>1,2</sup>	\$15 million
Clearing and Snagging of Waterways		Section 208 of the Flood Control Act of 1954, as amended	100% / 0% for initial \$100,000; 50% / 50% remaining cost	65% / 35%	\$1 million
Planning Assistance to States					
Assistance to States, local governments, Native American Tribes and other non-Federal entities, in the preparation of comprehensive plans for water and related land resources	Studies can include: Water Supply and Demand, Water Quality, Environmental Conservation and Restoration, Wetland Evaluation, Dam & Levee Safety/Failure, Flood Risk Management, Floodplain Management, Land Use, Master Planning, and GIS Development	Section 22 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1974, as amended	50% / 50% (non-Federal cost share can include 100% work in kind) Sec. 8119 of WRDA 2022 - Studies for economically disadvantaged communities may be completed at 100% federal costs, if certain criteria is met.		
Floodplain Management Services					
Provide full range of technical services and planning guidance needed to support effective floodplain management	Studies can include: Floodplain Delineation/Flood Hazard Evaluation Studies, Dam or Levee Break Analysis, Flood Warning/Preparedness, Regulatory Floodway, Comprehensive Floodplain Management, Urbanization Impact, Storm Water Management, Hydrologic, Hydraulic and Sediment Transport Modeling	Section 206 of the 1960 Flood Control Act (PL 86-645), as amended	Services are provided at no cost to state, regional and local governments, and Native American tribes.		

1 For structural flood damage reduction purpose, non-Federal share is 35% up to 50% (based on cost of Land, easements, rights of way, relocations, disposal sites-LERRDS), plus 5% must be in cash.

2 For non-structural flood damage reduction purpose, non-Federal share limited to 35%, with no 5% cash requirement.

# Approval Process for USACE Studies Under the Continuing Authorities Program

A District drafts a **Federal Interest Determination (FID)** presenting a determination that there is a Federal interest in pursuing a feasibility study to determine a viable solution to the appropriate CAP authority. The FID is transmitted to the Major Subordinate Command (MSC) for review and approval.

A **Project Management Plan** detailing work tasks, study cost, and study schedule is prepared by USACE and the non-federal sponsor.

A **draft Detailed Project Report and NEPA document** documenting the recommended plan are released for concurrent public, agency, and policy reviews.

The **Design and Implementation (D&I) Phase** is conducted to prepare design and construct the project. A D&I agreement is signed by USACE and the non-Federal sponsor.



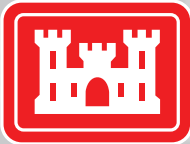
**Local interests request** the USACE investigate potential solutions to water resource problems. A site visit with the locals is typically performed at full Federal expense.

A **Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement (FCSA)** is executed to complete the decision document. The study is initially federally funded up to \$100,000. Any remaining feasibility phase costs are shared 50/50 with the non-federal sponsor.

The study team's recommended plan is presented to MSC senior leaders and reviewers at the **Alternative Formulation Briefing**. The senior leaders approve the release of the draft feasibility report and NEPA document. (Note: under draft guidance, this meeting will be called the **MSC Decision Milestone**).

A final **Detailed Project Report and NEPA document** is prepared by the District. It is transmitted to the MSC for review and approval.

**Construction** of the project commences if funding is available within the HQUSACE CAP. Costs are shared as specified in the authorizing legislation for the applicable section.



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[www.mvr.usace.army.mil](http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil)



# The Suite of Authorities



Section  
14



Section  
103



Section  
107



Section  
111



Section  
204



Section  
205



Section  
206



Section  
208



Section  
1135

Emergency Stream Bank and Shoreline

Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction (Beach Erosion)

Navigation Improvements

Mitigation to Shore Damage Attributable to Navigation Works

Beneficial Use of Dredge Material / Regional Sediment Management

Flood Damage Reduction

Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration

Snagging and Clearing for Flood Damage Reduction

Project Modifications for Improvements to the Environment

**NINE** Authorities providing HUGE Benefits to local communities

For more details about the authorities, reference:

PARTNERING WITH THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS *A Guide For Communities, Local Governments, States, Tribes, and Non-Governmental Organizations.* Institute for Water Resources.  
<https://www.iwrlibrary.us/#/document/a50ba6d1-50ca-4ac9-ac64-d5b2dab21ee6>



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