National Levee Safety Program and Requests to Alter USACE Projects (Section 408)

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Topics

- Part I: National Levee Safety Program Update
- Part II: Section 408 Update
Path Forward for a National Levee Safety Program
Bottom Line Up Front

- **Administration Priorities:**
  - Focus on traditional authorities for USACE Levee Safety Program activities
  - Include those agency activities which would directly complement a national program to extent practical
  - Continue a dialogue to build a clearer understanding of federal outlays, roles and responsibilities, and the national benefits of a National Levee Safety Program
Complementary Activities

Traditional USACE Levee Safety Activities

Deferred Activities

Mutually Beneficial Activities that are Both Authorized & Appropriated
Complementary Activities

1) National Levee Review: NLD, Inspection, and Risk Characterization
2) Agency Safety Guidelines
3) Agency Risk Awareness & Education
4) Collaboration with FEMA on all levee activities
5) Knowledge Transfer
Deferred Activities

1) National Committee on Levee Safety and a National Program
2) National Guidelines
3) Reports to Congress
4) State and Tribal Programs
5) Grants to States
6) Levee Rehab Fund
7) National Stakeholder Engagements
Requests to Alter USACE Projects
Background

- 33 USC 408 (Section 408)
- Provides USACE authority to grant permission to alter a USACE civil works project if

  1. *Does not impair usefulness of the project*
  2. *Not injurious to the public interest*

- Current USACE policy for granting permission is EC 1165-2-216
Basic Steps

- Pre-Coordination
- Written Request

Initiation

Request Package
- Coordination
- Compile Required Documentation

Review and Decision
- Formal Reviews
- Document Decision and Conditions
Section 408 Policy Update – 2016

- WRRDA 2014 Requirements
  - Establish benchmark goals (timeframe) for processing requests
  - Provide an opportunity for comment of the process
  - Create a publicly available database for requests and their status
  - USACE can now also accept funds from public utilities and natural gas companies to expedite requests in certain circumstances
Path Forward

- Dedicated team has been established to begin policy revision
- Will begin development of tracking database
- Will review data related to review schedules, resource needs, and costs collected to date
- Will continue to seek ways to streamline the process
External feedback can be submitted at anytime at -
http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks (under Section 408 link)

Will be more opportunities to provide feedback