



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
441 G STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20314-1000

CECW-P

SEP 13 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDER MISSISSIPPI VALLEY DIVISION

SUBJECT: Implementation Guidance for Section 1202(d) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (WRDA 2016), Mississippi River Ship Channel, Gulf to Baton Rouge, Louisiana

1. Section 1202(d) of WRDA 2016 directs the Secretary to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of modifying the project for navigation, Mississippi River Ship Channel, Gulf to Baton Rouge, Louisiana (MRSC), authorized by section 201(a) of the Harbor Development and Navigation Improvement Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-662; 100 Stat. 4090), to deepen the channel approaches and the associated area on the left descending bank of the Mississippi River between mile 98.3 and mile 100.6 Above Head of Passes (AHP) to a depth equal to the channel. Section 1202(d) of WRDA 2016 is enclosed.
2. The MRSC project is authorized to be constructed to a depth of 55 feet. Phases 1 and 2 of the project have been constructed, bringing the authorized channel to a depth of 45 feet. Within the same authorization is a second, adjacent channel 40 foot deep by 500 foot wide, along the left descending bank in the vicinity of the Port of New Orleans. This adjacent channel has never been constructed. The current federally maintained depth for the Port of New Orleans is limited to the previous authorization for the MRSC, which is a 35 foot deep by 1,500 foot wide channel. The Port of New Orleans currently maintains berthing areas at a depth of 35 feet at their own expense.
3. At such time as funding is made available, the district will conduct a feasibility study to determine the utility of deepening the adjacent approach channel between RM 98.3 and RM 100.6 to a depth equal to the main channel, currently at 45 feet. The feasibility study will be conducted in accordance with Section 1001 of WRRDA 2014, Engineering Regulation (ER) 1105-2-100, and other applicable planning regulations. The study will require the execution of a feasibility cost share agreement between USACE and a non-federal Sponsor and will be cost shared 50% federal and 50% non-federal.
4. Presently, the MRSC project is undergoing a General Reevaluation Report study (GRR) to implement the next phase of the MRSC project. This GRR does not evaluate any modifications to the adjacent channel nor berthing areas in the Port of New Orleans. If the current GRR study determines that the next phase of construction of the MRSC is justified, the study authorized by Section 1202(d) will also determine if the adjacent channel should be deepened to the same depth approved for construction in the current MRSC GRR.

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5. Questions regarding this implementation guidance May be directed to John Lucyshyn, Senior Planner, Mississippi Valley Division Regional Integration Team, at (202) 761-4515 or John.Lucyshyn@usace.army.mil.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Dalton", with a stylized flourish at the end.

JAMES C. DALTON, P.E.
Director of Civil Works

Encl

1202(d) MISSISSIPPI RIVER SHIP CHANNEL, GULF TO BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA.—The Secretary shall conduct a study to determine the feasibility of modifying the project for navigation, Mississippi River Ship Channel, Gulf to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, authorized by section 201(a) of the Harbor Development and Navigation Improvement Act of 1986 (Public Law 99–662; 100 Stat. 4090), to deepen the channel approaches and the associated area on the left descending bank of the Mississippi River between mile 98.3 and mile 100.6 Above Head of Passes (AHP) to a depth equal to the Channel.