



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

MAR 06 2017

CECW-NWD

MEMORANDUM FOR DIVISION COMMANDER, NORTHWESTERN DIVISION

SUBJECT: Implementation Guidance for Section 1178(b) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (WRDA 2016) – Columbia River, Watercraft Inspection Stations

1. Section 1178(b) of WRDA 2016 (Title I, Public Law 114-332) made follow-on changes to amendments made to the Aquatic Plant Control Program (33 U.S.C. 610) by Section 1039(d) of the Water Resources and Reform Development Act of 2014 (WRRDA 2014), Public Law 113-121 (Watercraft Inspection Stations). Section 1039(d) of WRRDA 2014 amended 33 U.S.C. 610 to authorize the establishment of watercraft inspection stations in the Columbia River Basin to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species to reservoirs operated and maintained by the Secretary. Section 1178(b) of WRDA 2016 further amended 33 U.S.C. 610 to allow the Secretary to operate and maintain existing stations, and to allow stations to be located anywhere within the States of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. Section 1178(b) also authorized the Secretary to assist these states in early detection of and rapid response to aquatic invasive species. A copy of Section 1178(b) is enclosed.

2. Guidance.

a. The District shall follow the process as outlined in the implementation guidance for Section 1039(d) of WRRDA 2014, dated 18 March 2016 (enclosure 2).

b. As authorized by Section 1178(b) of WRDA 2016, the Letter Report may recommend a plan to establish, maintain, and operate new or existing stations, as appropriate, subject to the availability of funding. The Letter Report also may recommend a plan to select station locations to protect the Columbia River Basin anywhere in the States of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington, in consultation with such states, with the highest likelihood of preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species at reservoirs operated and maintained by the Secretary. Lastly, in developing the Letter Report, the District may recommend actions to assist these states in rapid response to any aquatic invasive species, including quagga or zebra mussel infestation.

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2. Questions regarding this implementation guidance should be directed to Ms. Ada Benavides, Senior Policy Advisor, Planning and Policy Division at (202) 761-0415, [Ada.Benavides@usace.army.mil](mailto:Ada.Benavides@usace.army.mil).



THEODORE A. BROWN, P.E.  
Chief, Planning and Policy Division  
Directorate of Civil Work

Encl

**SEC. 1178. COLUMBIA RIVER**

(b) WATERCRAFT INSPECTION STATIONS.—Section 104 of the River and Harbor Act of 1958 (33 U.S.C. 610) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)—

(A) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary may establish, operate, and maintain new or existing watercraft inspection stations to protect the Columbia River Basin to be located in the States of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington at locations, as determined by the Secretary in consultation with such States, with the highest likelihood of preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species at reservoirs Operated and maintained by the Secretary. The Secretary shall also assist the States referred to in this paragraph with rapid response to any aquatic invasive species, including quagga or zebra mussel, infestation.”; and

(B) in paragraph (3)(A) by inserting “Governors of the” before “States”; and

(2) in subsection (e) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

“(3) assist States in early detection of aquatic invasive species, including quagga and zebra mussels; and”.