



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

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

NOV 04 2015

CECW-P

MEMORANDUM FOR Commanders, Major Subordinate Commands

SUBJECT: Implementation Guidance for Section 3023 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (WRRDA 2014) – Study on Risk Reduction

1. Section 3023 of WRRDA 2014 directs the Secretary, in coordination with the Secretaries of the Interior and Commerce, to enter into an arrangement with the National Academy of Sciences, no later than 18 months after the enactment of WRRDA 2014, to carry out a study and make recommendations related to infrastructure and coastal restoration options for reducing risk to human life and property from extreme weather events, including hurricanes, coastal storms, and inland flooding. It provides that the study will include an analysis of strategies and water resources projects; identify proven, science-based approaches to safeguard communities and sustain the economy of the United States; and identify estimated funding needed, existing and potential new funding sources, and the cost of natural disasters and the potential cost savings of implementing risk mitigation features. A copy of Section 3023 is enclosed.
2. No study will be initiated pursuant to Section 3023 unless funds are specifically appropriated for such work. If funds are appropriated, HQUSACE, through the Institute for Water Resources, will develop the scope of work, in coordination with the Departments of the Interior and Commerce, for a study by the National Academy of Sciences to address options and recommendations for reducing risks to human life and property from historic extreme weather events such as hurricanes, coastal storms, and inland flooding. The scope of work will include the considerations identified in Section 3023.
3. Section 3023 provides that the National Academy of Sciences will submit a copy of the study to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives no later than 30 days after its completion. The report will be made available on the Corps' public internet site.

Encl

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

CECW-P

SUBJECT: Implementation Guidance for Section 3023 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (WRRDA 2014) – Study on Risk Reduction

**SEC. 3023. STUDY ON RISK REDUCTION.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce, shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academy of Sciences to carry out a study and make recommendations relating to infrastructure and coastal restoration options for reducing risk to human life and property from extreme weather events, such as hurricanes, coastal storms, and inland flooding.

(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—The study under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) an analysis of strategies and water resources projects, including authorized water resources projects that have not yet been constructed, and other projects implemented in the United States and worldwide to respond to risk associated with extreme weather events;

(2) an analysis of—

(A) historical extreme weather events;

(B) the ability of existing infrastructure to mitigate risks associated with extreme weather events; and

(C) the reduction in long-term costs and vulnerability to infrastructure through the use of resilient construction techniques;

(3) identification of proven, science-based approaches and mechanisms for ecosystem protection and identification of natural resources likely to have the greatest need for protection, restoration, and conservation so that the infrastructure and restoration projects can continue safeguarding the communities in, and sustaining the economy of, the United States;

(4) an estimation of the funding necessary to improve infrastructure in the United States to reduce risk associated with extreme weather events;

(5) an analysis of the adequacy of current funding sources and the identification of potential new funding sources to finance the necessary infrastructure improvements referred to in paragraph (3); and

(6) an analysis of the Federal, State, and local costs of natural disasters and the potential cost-savings associated with implementing mitigation measures.

(c) COORDINATION.—The National Academy of Sciences may cooperate with the National Academy of Public Administration to carry out 1 or more aspects of the study under subsection (a).

(d) PUBLICATION.—Not later than 30 days after completion of the study under subsection (a), the National Academy of Sciences shall—

(1) submit a copy of the study to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives; and

(2) make a copy of the study available on a publicly accessible Internet site.