



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1000

CECW-CE

MAY 18 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDERS, MAJOR SUBORDINATE COMMANDS

SUBJECT: Implementation Guidance for Section 1150 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (WRDA 2016), Ice Jam Prevention and Mitigation

1. Section 1150 of WRDA 2016 authorizes the Secretary to carry out projects under Section 205 of the Flood Control Act of 1948 (33 U.S.C. 701s) that include the planning, design, construction, and monitoring of structural and nonstructural technologies and measures for preventing and mitigating flood damages associated with ice jams, and directs the Secretary to implement a pilot program to demonstrate the designs and technologies developed in accordance with the section. Section 1150 is enclosed.

2. In accordance with subparagraph (b) of Section 1150, projects implemented under this section may include the development and demonstration of innovative and cost-effective technologies and designs developed in consultation with the USACE Engineer Research Development Center (ERDC), Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL); universities; federal, state, and local agencies; and private organizations. Normal contracting and consultation procedures shall be followed by the Corps and by non-federal sponsors when partnering with other entities.

3. Districts where ice jams occur, should develop proposals in consultation with ERDC, CRREL and the external entities listed in paragraph 2 above for projects suitable for implementation as part of the pilot program directed by subparagraph (c) of Section 1150. The district will take the lead in developing the proposals and will coordinate through the division to the Headquarters Continuing Authority Program Manager, who will manage the Section 205 program with the goal of insuring that, to the extent practicable, no fewer than 10 projects utilizing structural and nonstructural measures and technologies to prevent and mitigate flood damages associated with ice jams are carried out between fiscal years 2017 and 2022. Criteria for the selection of demonstration projects are:

- (1) The project is located in an area where:
 - (a) past ice jams have caused damages;
 - (b) past ice jams have caused public alarm and required an organized response due to their potential impact to public safety;
 - (c) the CRREL ice jam database contains a history of ice jams; or
 - (d) USACE or CRREL personnel have been contacted for technical assistance related to ice jam processes.

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(2) A non-federal sponsor is willing to pursue a Section 205 project or a Section 205 project is underway;

(3) Descriptive information for past ice jams such as location and high water marks is known or can be estimated; and

(4) Innovative or cost-effective technologies such as monitoring, early warning, and nonstructural methods alone or in combination with traditional open-water flood risk reduction measures may be successful.

3. Actions proposed under Section 1150 must follow all applicable procedures, and requirements for Section 205 projects described in Appendix F of ER 1105-2-100 including the requirement for the project to be economically justified.

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



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

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SEC. 1150. ICE JAM PREVENTION AND MITIGATION.

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may carry out projects under section 205 of the Flood Control Act of 1948 (33 U.S.C. 701s), including planning, design, construction, and monitoring of structural and nonstructural technologies and measures, for preventing and mitigating flood damages associated with ice jams.

(B) **INCLUSION.** —The projects described in subsection (a) may include the development and demonstration of cost-effective technologies and designs developed in consultation with—

- (1) The Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory of the Corps of Engineers;
- (2) Universities;
- (3) Federal, State, and local agencies; and
- (4) Private organizations.

(C) **PILOT PROGRAM.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—During fiscal years 2017 through 2022, the Secretary shall identify and carry out not fewer than 10 projects under this section to demonstrate technologies and designs developed in accordance with this section.

(2) **PROJECT SELECTION.** —The Secretary shall ensure that the projects are selected from all cold regions of the United States, including the Upper Missouri River Basin (3) and the Northeast.