



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

CECW-EC

JUN 02 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Implementation Guidance for Section 3027 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (WRRDA 2014), Emergency Communication of Risk

1. Section 3027 of WRRDA 2014 provides that the Secretary in coordination with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) shall establish procedures and make certain information available through widely used and readily available means for the purposes of aiding in the communication of flood risk. Section 3027 of WRRDA 2014 is specific to those projects for which the Secretary carries out flood risk management activities subject to an annual operating plan (AOP). Section 3027 of WRRDA 2014 is enclosed.

2. Section 3027 of WRRDA 2014 specifies actions that should be followed for all flood risk management projects nationwide which are subject to an AOP. Currently, such projects are limited in scope to those under the purview of Northwestern Division. Flood risk management procedures are implemented in accordance with the approved Master Water Control Manual for the Missouri River Mainstem Reservoir System and the Columbia River Basin (subject to the Columbia River Treaty Flood Control Operating Plan), and the individual projects' water control manuals within the Columbia River Basin. The approved water management plan within a water control manual provides overall objectives and guidelines the Secretary will follow under a range of water supply and flow conditions. Notification procedures and coordination with District Emergency Centers under flood conditions are contained within the aforementioned Master Manuals and Individual project's water control manuals and regulation documents (e.g., NWD OPLAN 2015-01 System Flood Emergency Declaration). These documents provide for coordination activities with external agencies and stakeholders regarding water management related actions and outline specific steps necessary for communication of such actions and outline specific agencies responsible for issuance of warning related to flooding events. These procedures should be maintained and followed accordingly.

3. Though Section 3027 of WRRDA 2014 is limited in scope to projects subject to AOPs, USACE already does, and shall continue to, support federal agency collaboration and mission focus in the area of risk communication. All offices with the responsible charge for water management shall continue to ensure flood risk management procedures are implemented in accordance with the associated water control manuals and/or master water control manuals for the respective projects. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Weather Service

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(NWS) is the federal agency lead for communicating water levels and flood risk to the public and affected during flood events. During events of high water and flooding, when precipitation or runoff exceeds those calculations considered as the lowest risk to life and property contemplated by the annual operating plan, the USACE shall continue to provide release information, lake levels and other pertinent information to the NWS, which will then use the information, as appropriate, to inform the affected public. The dissemination and exchange of information are critical components of the USACE water management mission. Thus, in accordance with ER 1110-2-240, all USACE offices with the responsible charge for water management will make information available to the public on the current reservoir lake levels and releases via the USACE Access to Water Resources Data website (www.water.usace.army.mil).

4. The USACE shall continue to communicate flood risk under other authorities. Specifically, the Dam Safety and Levee Safety programs shall continue communicating the most current risk information related to existing projects with local project partners and communities. This coordination shall continue to occur with local emergency management agencies (to include FEMA) when developing detailed risk assessments and in updating Emergency Action Plans, including providing advice and guidance on how to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate flooding.

5. Questions regarding this implementation guidance should be directed to Sean L. Smith, P.E., Principal Hydrologic and Hydraulic Engineer, Engineering and Construction Division, at (202) 761-0301 or sean.l.smith@usace.army.mil.



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

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EC. 3027. EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION OF RISK.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AFFECTED GOVERNMENT.—The term “affected government” means a State, local, or tribal government with jurisdiction over an area that will be affected by a flood.

(2) ANNUAL OPERATING PLAN.—The term “annual operating plan” means a plan prepared by the Secretary that describes potential water condition scenarios for a river basin for a year.

(b) COMMUNICATION.—In any river basin where the Secretary carries out flood risk management activities subject to an annual operating plan, the Secretary shall establish procedures for providing the public and affected governments, including Indian tribes, in the river basin with—

- (1) timely information regarding expected water levels;
- (2) advice regarding appropriate preparedness actions;
- (3) technical assistance; and
- (4) any other information or assistance determined appropriate by the Secretary.

(c) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary, in coordination with the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, shall make the information required under subsection (b) available to the public through widely used and readily available means, including on the Internet.

(d) PROCEDURES.—The Secretary shall use the procedures established under subsection (b) only when precipitation or runoff exceeds those calculations considered as the lowest risk to life and property contemplated by the annual operating plan.