



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

CECW-EC

MAY 30 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Implementation Guidance for Section 4002(a) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (WRRDA 2014), Mississippi River Forecasting Improvements

1. Section 4002(a) of WRRDA 2014 authorizes the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, the Director of the United States Geological Survey, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Director of the National Weather Service, as applicable, to improve forecasting on the Mississippi River by updating forecasting technology; constructing additional sedimentation ranges on the Mississippi River and its tributaries; and deploying additional automatic identification system base stations at river gage sites. Section 4002(a) of WRRDA 2014 is enclosed.
2. With existing appropriations, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in consultation with the above agencies and other stakeholders, continues to improve forecasting on the Mississippi River by updating forecasting technology; constructing additional sedimentation ranges on the Mississippi River and its tributaries; and deploying additional automatic identification system base stations at river gage sites within the watershed.
3. At such time that additional funds are specifically appropriated, the Corps, in consultation with the above agencies, will develop a report documenting the condition and location of existing river gages and sedimentation ranges; a plan to construct additional automated river gages, rehabilitate existing automated and manual river gages, and to replace manual river gages with automated gages critical to forecasting on the Mississippi River and its tributaries as warranted; and, costs associated with such work. The report will also analyze the need for additional sedimentation ranges on the Mississippi River and its tributaries. The report will identify and prioritize the sections of the Mississippi River on which additional and more reliable information would have the greatest impact on maintaining navigation on the Mississippi River. No work may be initiated to implement actions identified in the report unless funds are specifically appropriated for such purposes.
4. The Corps will provide the report to the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) for transmittal to Congress and make the report publicly available on its website.

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5. 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

Encl

DISTRIBUTION:  
COMMANDERS, REGIONAL BUSINESS AND PROGRAMS DIRECTORS,  
GREAT LAKES AND OHIO RIVER DIVISION, CELRD  
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**SEC. 4002. MISSISSIPPI RIVER.**

(a) MISSISSIPPI RIVER FORECASTING IMPROVEMENTS.

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, the Director of the United States Geological Survey, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Director of the National Weather Service, as applicable, shall improve forecasting on the Mississippi River by—

(A) updating forecasting technology deployed on the Mississippi River and its tributaries through—

- (i) the construction of additional automated river gages;
- (ii) the rehabilitation of existing automated and manual river gages; and
- (iii) the replacement of manual river gages with automated gages, as the Secretary determines to be necessary;

(B) constructing additional sedimentation ranges on the Mississippi River and its tributaries; and

(C) deploying additional automatic identification system base stations at river gage sites.

(2) PRIORITIZATION.—In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary shall prioritize the sections of the Mississippi River on which additional and more reliable information would have the greatest impact on maintaining navigation on the Mississippi River.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress and make publicly available a report on the activities carried out by the Secretary under this subsection.