

WRRDA of 2014 – Listening Session and Public Input

On 10 June 2014, the President signed into law the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (WRRDA 14). As we embark upon the important task of implementing this statute the Corps will be holding listening sessions by webinar for public input to inform the agency's implementation of the WRRDA 14. In addition to participation in these listening sessions, you are encouraged to provide any written views to us at any time.

Each of the listening sessions will cover a different collection of the more important general program policy provisions of WRRDA. These policy provisions have been categorized into general theme areas so that listening sessions can concentrate on two or more important theme areas or categories. The current conceptual framework for the listening sessions is as follows:

- Category/Session I (August 13, 2014)
 - Deauthorizations & Backlog Prevention
 - Project Development and Delivery (Including Planning)

- Category/Session II (August 27, 2014)
 - Alternative Financing – Contributions
 - Alternative Financing – Title V
 - Credits

- Category/Session III (September 10, 2014)
 - Levee Safety
 - Dam Safety
 - Regulatory (including 408)

- Category/Session IV (September 24, 2014)
 - Non-Federal Implementation
 - Water Supply and Reservoirs
 - Navigation

We anticipate that each listening session will last 2 to 3 hours commencing at 1400 EDT. Each public contributor to the session will be permitted to talk for a specified length of time; and if time permits, additional rounds of comments or recommendations from contributors will be provided for.

Category/Session I (August 13, 2014)

- Deauthorizations & Backlog Prevention:
 - Sec. 6001. Deauthorization of inactive projects.

- Sec. 6003. Backlog prevention.
- Sec. 6004. Deauthorizations.
- Project Development and Delivery (Including Planning)
 - Sec. 1001. Vertical integration and acceleration of studies.
 - Sec. 1002. Consolidation of studies.
 - Sec. 1003. Expedited completion of reports.
 - Sec. 1004. Removal of duplicative analyses.
 - Sec. 1005. Project acceleration.
 - Sec. 1010. Determination of project completion.
 - Sec. 1012. Transparency in accounting and administrative expenses.
 - Sec. 1013. Evaluation of project Partnership Agreements.
 - Sec. 1036. Non-Federal plans to provide additional flood risk reduction.
 - Sec. 1040. Fish and wildlife mitigation.
 - Sec. 1041. Mitigation status report.
 - Sec. 1044. Independent peer review.
 - Sec. 3028. Safety assurance review.
 - Sec. 7001. Annual report to Congress.

Category/Session II (August 27, 2014)

- Alternative Financing – Contributions
 - Sec. 1015. Contributions by non-Federal interests.
 - Sec. 1017. Acceptance of contributed funds to increase lock operations.
 - Sec. 1023. Additional contributions by non-Federal interests.
 - Sec. 1024. Authority to accept and use materials and services.
 - Sec. 1026. Clarification of impacts to other Federal facilities.
(contributions)
 - Sec. 1047. Special use permits.
 - Sec. 1048. America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass program.
- Alternative Financing – Title V
 - Sec. 5014. Water infrastructure public-private partnership pilot
 - Title V, Subtitle C (Innovative Financing Pilot Projects)
- Credits
 - Sec. 1018. Credit for in-kind contributions.
 - Sec. 1019. Clarification of in-kind credit authority.
 - Sec. 1020. Transfer of excess credit.
 - Sec. 1021. Crediting authority for federally authorized navigation projects.
 - Sec. 1022. Credit in lieu of reimbursement.

Category/Session III (September 10, 2014)

- Levee Safety – Title III, Subtitle B – All
- Dam Safety – Title III, Subtitle A – All
- Regulatory (including 408)
 - Sec. 1006. Expediting the evaluation and processing of permits.
 - Sec. 1007. Expediting approval of modifications and alterations of projects by non-Federal interests.
 - Sec. 1035. Recreational access.

Category/Session IV (September 24, 2014)

- Non-Federal Implementation
 - Sec. 1014. Study and construction of water resources development projects by non-Federal interests.
 - Sec. 1016. Operation and maintenance of certain projects.
 - Sec. 1043. Non-Federal implementation pilot program.
 - Sec. 2107. Preserving United States harbors.
- Water Supply and Reservoirs
 - Sec. 1045. Report on surface elevations at drought affected lakes.
 - Sec. 1046. Reservoir operations and water supply.
 - Sec. 1051. Interstate water agreements and compacts.
- Navigation
 - Title II, Subtitle A -- Inland Navigation
 - Title II, Subtitle B – Ports and Harbor Maintenance

Public Participation: Members of the public can participate in the meetings by web connection or by telephone. Detailed instructions, including the meeting phone number and web link for each meeting, will be posted on this site shortly.

Written comments: In addition to presenting comments by public meeting webinar, the public may also make written suggestions or recommendations for implementation of the Sections of the Act enumerated above. Members of the public who wish to submit written suggestions or recommendations for consideration by the Corps in preparing implementation guidance must email wrrda@usace.army.mil or send them to Mr. Bruce Carlson, HQUSACE, 441 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20314.