Civil Works Planning Modernization

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What is Planning Modernization?

- Contemporary Planning Approach Applying SMART Principles
  - S – SPECIFIC
  - M – MEASURABLE
  - A – ATTAINABLE
  - R – RISK-INFORMED
  - T – TIMELY

- One of the Four Pillars of Civil Works Transformation
Transforming Civil Works

Deliver enduring & essential water resource solutions by applying effective transformation strategies.

- Planning Modernization
- Budget Development Transformation
- Quality Solutions & Services
- Infrastructure Strategy
Why Change Our Approach?

Civil Works Planning must continue to meet the nation’s water resources needs in an increasingly complex environment, while:

- Being *adaptive* and *responsive* to the needs of the community, the non-federal cost-sharing sponsor, and the *nation*

- Providing prudent investment recommendations for the *highest priority* problems and effective solutions in a time of *scarce resources* at all levels of government
National Water Resource Challenges

- Energy
- Environmental Values
- Governance
  - Federal Budget
  - Legislative Changes
- Demographic Shifts
- Persistent Conflict
- Aging Infrastructure
- Water Quality
- Increasing Demand for Water
- Declining Biodiversity
- Disaster Preparedness and Response
- Globalization
- Flood Risk
- Climate Change
How Have We Changed?

- Focused Portfolio of Priority Feasibility Studies
- Priority Budget Consideration for Active Studies
- All Feasibility Studies will be Single-Phase – *NO MORE RECONs*
- All Feasibility Studies expected to follow 3-3-3 Rule
  - 3 Year study duration
  - $3 Million maximum per study cost
  - Vertical team integration at 3 command levels (District, MSC, HQUSACE)
  - Exemption process for very large, complex studies that cannot meet the 3-year and/or $3 million policy
- Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement (FCSA) is first step
- Project Management Plan (PMP) and Scope of Work to be initially developed and updated throughout conduct of the study
SMART Feasibility Study Process

SCOPING
3-6 months

- Identify study objectives
- Define Problems & Opportunities
- NEPA Scoping
- Inventory & Initial Forecast
- Formulate Alternative Plans
- Evaluate alternatives and identify reasonable array
- Develop PMP and Review Plan
- Initiate Exemption Process (if needed)

ALTERNATIVE FORMULATION & ANALYSIS

TSP Milestone
Vertical Team concurrence on tentatively selected plan

FEASIBILITY-LEVEL ANALYSIS

Agency Decision Milestone
Agency endorsement of recommended plan

Release draft report for CONCURRENT REVIEW

Civil Works Review Board
Release for State & Agency Review

DE transmits final report package

CHIEF’S REPORT

Chief’s Report Signed

Alternatives Milestone
Vertical Team concurrence on array of alternatives
SMART Planning Approach: What’s Different?

- **Decision Focused** – focus on next Milestone Decision
- **Risk-Informed** – acknowledge and manage risk at each step
  - Maximize use of existing, readily available data
  - Only collect data and analyze what is needed for next decision
  - Make interim decisions and move on to next step
  - Document assumptions, risks, and uncertainties and decisions
  - Vertical Team agreement on uncertainties and how to manage
- **Progressively Elaborated** – build upon results at each step
  - Relative values early, absolute values later
  - Document decisions along the way
  - Continuously develop the feasibility report incorporating results and decisions
- **Timely** – make the decision sooner
  - Recommended Plans – a sound plan is often “good enough”
  - No Federal Interest – terminate early
Challenges

- Significant Culture Change at all Levels
  - “One-Corps” approach – consistency
  - Risk-informed Decisions – sponsor & vertical team alignment
  - Emphasis on Quality at District-Level – right the 1st time
  - Managing / addressing concurrent review comments
  - Educating sponsors on process & requirements

- Policy Guidance Gaps and Revisions

- Alignment of Funding, Schedules, and Resources
Rewards

- More Responsive to Nation’s Needs
  - Focused portfolio of feasibility studies
    - 9 New Reconnaissance Studies in FY2014
    - 10 New Feasibility Studies (single-phase) in FY2015
  - Administration budget support to complete studies as planned
    - All active and new start studies funded to capability
    - 10% increase in Investigations budget for FY2015
  - Projects Authorized for Construction Earlier
    - 2007-2014
      - 36 Chief’s Reports approved → $28 billion in projects
      - WRRDA 2014 → authorized 34 of those projects totaling $25 billion
    - 2015
      - 29 Chief’s Reports scheduled for completion
What Does This All Mean for You?

- **Aggressive/Compressed Schedules**
  - Significant scrutiny on schedule slips
  - High potential for needing to integrate A-E and Planning Services contractor expertise to supplement District teams
  - Reliable funding should contribute to significant efficiencies in conducting studies

- **Faster Approval of Chief’s Reports & Earlier Construction Authorizations**
  - Design Phase – refine project to address remaining uncertainties
    - Likely significant field data collection during early design phase
  - Construction – highest priority/most beneficial projects sooner
    - Benefits at national, regional, local levels realized earlier
For More Information

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