



The Army Civil Works Program

As of: 31 August 2010

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG®

Since 1824, the Army Corps of Engineers has been meeting the Nation's civilian infrastructure needs as well as providing for the national defense in keeping with the concept of President Thomas Jefferson, who envisioned a body of engineers in the Army available to take on work of "a civil nature" as well as military work. In the early days, the Civil Works mission centered on navigation in rivers and harbors as a means to unify the Nation and connect it to world markets. Federal interest in navigation stems from the Commerce Clause of the Constitution and subsequent Supreme Court decisions allowing Federal regulation of, and improvements on, navigable waters. Over the years, successive Congresses and Administrations assigned the Corps of Engineers more missions, largely related to water, until today the Corps of Engineers touches the lives of nearly every American in a variety of ways – some very visible, some less so, but all enormously important. Among them:



- **Cheaper, cleaner transportation:** The 12,000 miles of waterways and 238 locks maintained by the Corps move 1/6 of the Nation's freight, at a cost in dollars and fuel ½ that of rail and 1/10 that of trucks – reducing congestion on our highways and railroads, energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Links to the global marketplace:** USACE maintains 185 major harbors (250,000+ tons of commerce a year). These handle nearly 1 billion tons in imports and over ½ billion tons in exports, with a total value of more than \$1.6 trillion and millions of U.S. jobs that depend on our international trade, plus over 950 million tons of domestic cargo. USACE also maintains 741 smaller harbors, mostly for recreation, fishing and "harbors of refuge."
- **Flood losses prevented:** Although no dam, levee, floodwall, or other project can entirely eliminate the risks of flooding, since the Corps began flood control work in 1928, every \$1 spent on projects has prevented at least \$6 in damages (both adjusted for inflation).
- **Clean, economical energy:** The Corps' 75 hydropower dams provide nearly ¼ of the Nation's hydroelectric power, or about 3% of its total electric supply. In areas of the country where hydropower is abundant, such as the Pacific Northwest, power costs are far lower than average. This renewable energy will be available as long as the sun shines and rain falls, and provides \$800 million a year to the Treasury in power sales. There are also 90 non-federal power plants at Corps projects, and USACE is looking for potential additional sites.
- **Outdoor recreation:** The Corps is the Nation's largest provider of outdoor recreation services. American's make 350 million visits a year to Corps recreation areas at 400 Corps lakes and rivers. These visitors spend \$18 billion on trip expenses and durable goods annually, including \$8 billion in communities around Corps lakes.
- **Restoration of aquatic ecosystems:** The Corps has taken on massive ecosystem restoration projects, such as the Everglades and Coastal Louisiana.

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441 G STREET NW; WASHINGTON, DC 20314

<http://usace.army.mil/CECW/Pages/Home.aspx>

- **Regulation of waterways and wetlands:** Since the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, the Corps has had authority to regulate, through permits, construction in navigable waterways. In the Clean Water Act of 1972, this authority was broadened to include dredging and fill activities in all “waters of the United States,” including many – but not all – wetlands. In FY 2009, the Corps decided 71,260 permit cases, granting nearly 50,000 permits, imposing modifications at 2,780 projects, denying 260, having nearly 10,000 withdrawn by the applicant, and determining in over 10,000 cases that no permit was necessary.
- **Emergency preparedness and response:** The Corps provides emergency response to natural disasters under Public Law 84-99, which covers flood control and coastal emergencies. It also provides emergency support to other agencies, particularly the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), under Public Law 93-288 (the Stafford Act) as amended. Under this latter authority, the Corps, in coordination with FEMA, works directly with State authorities in providing temporary repair and construction of roads, bridges, and utilities, temporary shelter, debris removal and demolition, water supply, etc.
- **Support to national defense:** About 10,000 Corps Civilians have served and supported U.S. reconstruction efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2003. They, in turn, have been supported by thousands of Corps members stateside who provide expert consulting through “reachback” service, and who take up the workload for the deployed employees.

Today the Corps includes more than 8,000 engineers, 2,000 biological, social and natural scientists and another 13,000 supporting staff dedicated to these Civil Works missions.

Funding

Appropriations for Civil Works activities of the Corps of Engineers in Fiscal Year 2010 came to \$5.66 billion, including a regular appropriation of \$5.44 billion, and \$217 million from the Disaster Relief and Summer Jobs Act of 2010. Within the regular appropriation, \$1.865 billion (34%) was allocated for flood risk management, \$1.746 billion (32%) for navigation, \$1.13 billion (21%) for environmental and regulatory activities, \$284 million (5%) for recreation, \$211 million (4%) for hydropower, and \$204 million (4%) for other activities.

USACE is also wrapping up work in executing \$4.6 billion appropriated in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, passing the \$4.1 billion mark in early August 2010 and on track to execute the entire program as prescribed by Congress. ARRA funds have been applied to accelerate studies and construction projects and to reduce the backlog of maintenance and repairs needed at Corps projects.

Strategy

The Corps Civil Works Strategy emphasizes safe and resilient infrastructure, sustainable water resources and marine transportation systems and life cycle maintenance of its flood risk management, harbors and inland waterway systems.

As USACE moves forward to budget for future Civil Works programs we are seeking to move from planning just individual project solutions to more collaborative arrangements with other federal, state, local and non-governmental agencies to research and plan basin-wide or regional sustainable water resources solutions to the spectrum of water problems. At the same time we are improving our ability to plan for reasonably foreseeable changes to water supply, storm patterns and sea level rise that may occur due to climate change and to inject more corporate and private responsibility for the risks encountered in their own decisions to build or invest. Finally, the Corps is moving not only towards more efficient, effective management of its huge inventory of facilities, but also to seek additional funding sources from the users of the systems it maintains including better proportions between the amount necessary to maintain these systems and the amounts contributed by major system users, the use of public-private partnerships, and more efficient systems management.