



Hello!

Thank you for subscribing to WaterLog! If you have comments, suggestions, or we have missed something, please [let us know](#). Also, please don't hesitate to pass this Update along to your colleagues. It's easy to subscribe and it's free. [Just click here](#), and know that we NEVER share our subscriber information.

On February 23rd, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, Adam Telle, announced the [“Building Infrastructure, Not Paperwork”](#) initiative aimed at maximizing USACE’s ability to deliver national infrastructure, cutting red tape with a focus on efficiency, increasing transparency and accountability, and strategically prioritizing resources on core missions that serve the national interest.

The initiative sets out five main areas of effort – we have summarized them below although the details of their meaning have yet to be made clear:

(1) Maximizing the ability to deliver on national infrastructure;

- a. The Secretary is displeased with increased dredging costs and frequent non-awardable contracts (bids 25%+ over government estimate)
- b. Elevates dredge contracting to HQ to enable the Corps to have a national picture of dredging needs and costs so that it can better bargain with the dredging companies on specific contracts
- c. Greater reliance on USACE Centers of Expertise (In-house experts)

Goal: Reduce dredging costs, improve delivery efficiency via streamlined contract estimating and awards

(2) Cutting Red Tape

- a. Clarifies uncertainties in WOTUS and water permitting decisions to enable faster decision making
- b. Continued investment into the Regulatory Request System to make applying for and getting a permit easier and faster
- c. Expands some environmental windows

Goal: Better align project permitting with POTUS Agenda

(3) Focus on Efficiency

- a. Focuses Corps on administration priorities only
- b. Prohibits employees from advocating for programs not in the PBUD

Goal: Ensure consistent communication and alignment on Administration priorities

(4) Transparency & Accountability

- a. Provides greater transparency in how federal funds (salaries) are spent on Corps projects
- b. Establishes consequences for cost-overruns
- c. Consolidates USACE websites

Goal: Stop using feasibility studies to pay salaries, allowing study costs to reflect true costs.

(5) Prioritization

- a. Imposes strategic discipline by focusing all resources on core missions that serve the national interest, while terminating legacy efforts that divert focus and waste money.
- b. Enables greater reliance on the private sector
- c. Early Federal Interest Determination

Goal: Deliver projects faster and cheaper

We will be monitoring the USACE news releases and other communications for updates over the coming weeks. Stay tuned for more.

Thanks for reading WaterLog!

Howard Marlowe | President

Warwick Group Consultants, LLC

Howard.Marlowe@WarwickConsultants.Net

1717 K Street, NW, Suite 900

Washington, DC 20006

(202) 787-5770