



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
MISSISSIPPI VALLEY DIVISION, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 80
VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI 39181-0080

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

CEMVD-PD-SP

zewwof

MEMORANDUM FOR Commander, Rock Island District

SUBJECT: NESP Project W, Island and Shoreline Protection Project
Implementation Report with Integrated Environmental Assessment
Peer Review Plan (PRP)

1. References:

a. EC 1105-2-408, Peer Review of Decision documents, 31 May 2005.

b. Memorandum, CECW-CP, 30 March 2007, subject: Peer Review Process.

c. Supplement to memorandum, CEMVD-PD-N, 30 March 2007, subject: Peer Review Process.

d. Memorandum, CEMVD-PD-N, 3 June 2008, subject: Island and Shoreline Protection (NESP Project W), Ecosystem Planning Center of Expertise Recommendation for Approval of Peer Review Plan (encl).

2. I hereby approve subject PRP and concur in the recommendation that Independent Technical Review only is required and that External Peer Review is not needed. The proposed PRP has been coordinated with the National Ecosystem Planning Center of Expertise (ECO-PCX) and concurred with by the ECO-PCX. The PRP complies with all applicable policies and provides an adequate independent technical review of the plan formulation, engineering and environmental analyses, and other aspects of the plan development. Non-substantive changes to this PRP do not require further approval.

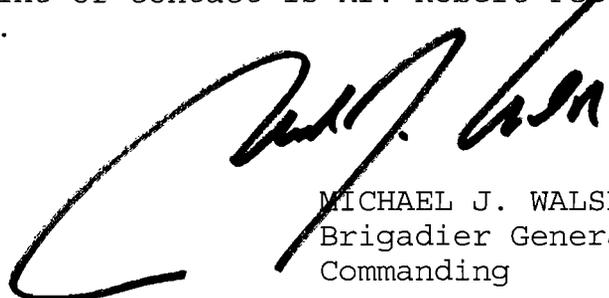
CEMVD-PD-SP

SUBJECT: NESP Project W, Island and Shoreline Protection Project
Implementation Report with Integrated Environmental Assessment
Peer Review Plan (PRP)

3. The District should post the PRP to its web site and provide a link to the ECO-PCX for posting on their web page, as well as providing a copy of the final approved PRP to the ECO-PCX for their use. Before posting to the web site, the names of Corps/Army employees should be removed in accordance with reference 1.d. above.

4. The MVD point of contact is Mr. Robert Petersen, CEMVD-PD-SP, (601) 634-5286.

Encl



MICHAEL J. WALSH
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

CF:
CECW-CP



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REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

CEMVD-PD-N

3 June 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR Commander, Mississippi Valley Division
ATTN: (CEMVD-PD-SP, Terry Smith)

SUBJECT: Island and Shoreline Protection (NESP Project W), Ecosystem Planning Center of Expertise Recommendation for Approval of Peer Review Plan

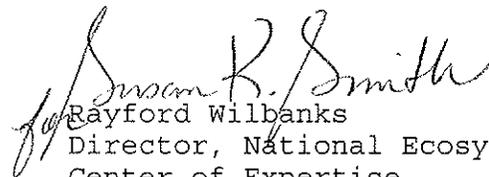
1. References:

- a. EC 1105-2-408, Peer Review of Decision documents, 31 May 2005.
- b. CECW-CP Memorandum and attachment, 30 March 2007, subject: Peer Review Process.

2. The proposed PRP has been coordinated with the National Ecosystem Planning Center of Expertise (ECO-PCX) and concurred in by the ECO-PCX. The PRP complies with all applicable policy and provides an adequate independent technical review of the plan formulation, engineering, and environmental analyses, and other aspects of the plan development. The ECO-PCX concurs with the conclusion that external peer review of this project is not necessary because: (1) the study will not produce influential scientific information, (2) the level of risk is low, and (3) the implementation costs are expected to be well below \$45 million. Non-substantive changes to this PRP do not require further approval.

3. The district should post the PRP to its web site and provide a link to the ECO-PCX for posting on their web page, as well as providing a copy of the final approved PRP to the ECO-PCX for their use. Before posting to the web site the names of Corps/Army employees should be removed in accordance with reference 1.b. above.

4. Conclusion. The ECO-PCX recommends the PRP for approval by MVD.


Rayford Wilbanks
Director, National Ecosystem Planning
Center of Expertise

CF:

CEMVD-RB-T (D. Vigh)
CEMVR-PM-F (C. Knollenberg)
CEMVD-PD-SP (T. Smith)
CEMVR-EC-H (T. Kirkeeng)

PEER REVIEW PLAN

**ISLAND AND SHORELINE PROTECTION
NAVIGATION AND ECOSYSTEM SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM
PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT WITH
INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

PEER REVIEW PLAN

ISLAND AND SHORELINE PROTECTION NAVIGATION AND ECOSYSTEM SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT WITH INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

I. PURPOSE AND REQUIREMENTS

A. The Document. This document outlines the peer review plan for Island and Shoreline Protection Ecosystem Restoration Project Implementation Report (PIR) with Integrated Environmental Assessment and Appendices. The project is a component of the Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP). The NESP was authorized for study and design by Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970. Construction authorization is currently pending in the 2007 version of the Water Resources Development Act. The Chiefs Report for the comprehensive feasibility study recommending the need for further study on several ecosystem restoration projects was approved on 02 December 2004. The PIR for this project build on the comprehensive feasibility study and provides the site specific planning details necessary for project approval.

EC 1105-2-408 dated 31 May 2005 “Peer Review of Decision Documents” 1) establishes procedures to ensure the quality and credibility of Corps decision documents by adjusting and supplementing the review process and 2) requires that documents have a peer review plan. The Circular applies to all feasibility studies and reports and any other reports that lead to decision documents that require authorization by Congress. The feasibility level reports (PIRs) in this program will lead to Congressional Authorization and are therefore covered by the Circular.

B. The Circular. The Circular outlines the requirement of the two review approaches—-independent technical review (ITR) and external peer review (EPR)—and provides guidance on Corps Planning Centers of Expertise (PCX) involvement in the approaches. This document addresses review of the decision document as it pertains to both approaches and planning coordination with the appropriate Center.

1. INDEPENDENT TECHNICAL REVIEW (ITR). Districts are responsible for reviewing the technical aspects of the decision documents through the ITR approach. Independent Technical Review is a critical examination by a qualified person or team that was not involved in the day-to-day technical work that supports the decision document. Independent Technical Review is intended to confirm that such work was done in accordance with clearly established professional principles, practices, codes, and criteria. In addition to technical review, documents should also be reviewed for their compliance with laws and policy. The Circular also requires that DrChecks (<https://www.projnet.org/projnet/>) be used to document all ITR comments, responses, and associated resolution accomplished.

2. EXTERNAL PEER REVIEW (EPR). The Circular added external peer review to the existing Corps review process. This approach does not replace the standard ITR process. The peer review approach applies in special cases where the magnitude and risk of the project are such that a critical examination by a qualified person outside the Corps is necessary. External Peer Review can also be used where the information is based on novel methods, presents complex interpretation challenges, contains precedent-setting methods or models, or is likely to affect policy decisions that

have a significant impact. The degree of independence required for technical review increases as the project magnitude and project risk increase.

a. Projects with low magnitude and low risk may use a routine ITR.

b. Projects with either high magnitude/low risk or low magnitude/high risk would require both Corps and outside reviewers on the ITR team to address the portions of the project that cause the project to rate high on the magnitude or risk scale.

c. Projects with high magnitude and high risk require a routine ITR as well as an EPR.

3. PCX Coordination. The Circular outlines PCX coordination in conjunction with preparation of the review plan. Districts should prepare the plans in coordination with the appropriate PCX. The Corps PCX are responsible for the accomplishment and quality of ITR and EPR for decision documents covered by the Circular. Centers may conduct the review or manage the review to be conducted by others. Reviews will be assigned to the appropriate Center based on business programs. The Circular outlines alternative procedures to apply to decision documents. Each Center is required to post review plans to its website every three months as well as links to any reports that have been made public. The Office of Water Project Review (OWPR) will consolidate the lists of all review plans and establish a mechanism for soliciting public feedback on the review plans.

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A. Decision Document. The purpose of the decision document entitled “Island and Shoreline Protection - Ecosystem Restoration Project Implementation Report (PIR) with Integrated Environmental Assessment and Appendices” is to present the results of a feasibility study undertaken to restore various island and shoreline erosion sites in the Upper Mississippi River System. The feasibility phase of this project is not cost shared with the project sponsor. This report provides planning, engineering, and implementation details of the recommended restoration plan to allow final design and construction to proceed subsequent to the approval of the plan.

B. General Site Description. The Island and Shoreline Protection project currently has three specific sites that are being planned and designed.

- Twin Island is located on the Illinois Waterway, River Mile 38.0, Calhoun County, Illinois. The project site is located 6 miles upstream of Kampsville, Illinois.
- Long Island is located on the Mississippi River, Pool 21, River Mile 340.3, Adams County, Illinois. The project site is located 2 miles downstream of Canton, Missouri.
- Methoist Lake is located on the Mississippi River, Pool 10, River Mile 625.6, Clayton County, Iowa. The project site is located 8.5 miles downstream of Prairie du Chein, Wisconsin.

C. Project Scope. The proposed project areas are as follows:

- Twin Island (MVS) - 800 feet of bankline. The preliminary estimated total project cost is \$350,000.
- Long Island (MVR) – 1,200 feet of bankline. The preliminary estimated total project cost is \$1,600,000.
- Methodist Lake (MVP) – 800 feet of bankline. The preliminary estimated total project cost is \$330,000.

D. Problems and Opportunities. Shoreline and island erosion are natural processes that characterize dynamic rivers. In the Upper Mississippi River System (UMRS), shoreline erosion is exacerbated by commercial and recreational boats and by wind-generated waves in the impounded system. Shoreline erosion is a problem where it damages social resources, important habitats, or archeological resources.

Existing planform features of the UMRS need to be protected. Critical resources such as forest stands, heron and egret colonies, eagle roosting trees, and cultural sites are being threatened.

Natural resource managers have identified numerous locations where island and bank erosion is threatening critical resources. Highly valuable forest stands such as heron and egret nesting colonies, eagle roosting trees, or rare bottomland hardwoods are targets for protection of terrestrial resources. Erosion of natural levees or islands is undesirable in locations where introduction of sediment laden river flow, bed load, or currents may degrade backwater habitat.

The products of the Island and Shoreline Protection Team will be to construct bank protection on various sites throughout this 1200 mile river system. Innovative and cost effective methods of bank stabilization will be developed.

E. Product Delivery Team. The product delivery team (PDT) is comprised of those individuals directly involved in the development of the decision document.

F. Vertical Team. The Vertical Team includes District management, District Support Team (DST) and Regional Integration Team (RIT) staff as well as members of the Planning of Community of Practice (PCoP). The District project manager is Scott Whitney, CEMVR-PM-M, at 309-794-5386. The regional project manager is Chuck Spitzack. DST manager for this project is Terry Smith, CEMVD-PD-SP at 601-634-5840. The RIT manager is Rich Worthington at 202-761-4523. The PCoP contact is Susan Smith, CEMVD-PD-N at 601-634-5827.

III. INDEPENDENT TECHNICAL PLAN

As outlined above in paragraph 1.b. (1), the District is responsible for ensuring adequate technical review of decision documents. The responsible PDT Districts of these decision documents are Rock Island, St. Paul, and St. Louis Districts.

A. General. An ITR Manager shall be designated for the ITR process. The proposed ITR Manager for this project will be determined by the EcoPCX. As required by the PCX, the manager is from outside the PDT's Division. The proposed scope of work for the ITR Process is provided in Appendix A. In general, the ITR Manager is responsible for providing information necessary for setting up the review, communicating with the Team Leader, providing a summary of critical review comments, collecting grammatical and editorial comments from the ITR team (ITRT), ensuring that the ITRT has adequate funding to perform the review, facilitating the resolution of the comments, and certifying that the ITR has been conducted and resolved in accordance with policy.

B. Team. The ITRT will be comprised of individuals that have not been involved in the development of the decision document and will be chosen based on expertise, experience, and/or skills. The members will roughly mirror the composition of the PDT. The ITRT members and their areas of expertise are:

First	Last	Discipline	Phone	Email
TBD by EcoPCX		ITR Manager/plan formulation		@usace.army.mil
		Environmental Engineering/Civil design		@usace.army.mil
		Biology/NEPA		@usace.army.mil
		Hydraulics/hydrology		@usace.army.mil
		Socio-economics		@usace.army.mil
		Cost engineering ¹		@usace.army.mil
		Real estate/Lands		@usace.army.mil
		Cultural resources		@usace.army.mil
		Geotechnical engineering		@usace.army.mil

¹ The cost engineering team member nomination will be coordinated with the NWW Cost Estimating Directory of Expertise as required. The Directory will decide if the cost estimate will need to be reviewed by Directory Staff.

C. Timing and Schedule

1. Throughout the development of this document, the team will hold planning charrettes to ensure planning quality. Senior staff and subject matter experts from the PDT District and members of the vertical team (DST, Planning CoP, RIT) will attend the charrettes and provide comments on the product to date.
2. The ITR process for this document will follow the timeline below. Actual dates will be scheduled once the review period draws closer. It is estimated that review of this document will be begin in the fourth Quarter of FY09.

Task Name	Completion Date (week)
Start Project	
PMP for PIR & Design	
Peer Review Plan - PCX Submission	
Peer Review Plan - PCX Approval	
Preproject Monitoring Plan (AM Plan as needed)	
Planning Charrette #1 (Project Initiation/Questions)	
Preproject Monitoring Plan Approval	
PMP Approval	
Start Project Implementation Report (CW140)	
Planning Charrette #2 (Future w/o & Prelim Alt) & FSM	13
Initial NEPA / Cultural Coordination	
USFWS CAR Coordination	
RE Tract Ownership Data/ ROE (if needed)	
HTRW (Phase I)	
Preproject Monitoring (if needed)	
Benefit Model Selection	
VE Study (required in PIR phase if project >\$10m)	
Planning Charrette #3 (Pre-Plan Selection)	17
ITR	
Select Team	
ITR Team Review	
Respond to ITR Comments	
Resolve Comments/Backcheck/Closeout	
ITR Certification	30
Planning Charrette #4 (AFB Pre-Brief, policy issue review)	24
Alternative Formulation Briefing w/ Policy Guidance Memo (PGM)	32
Complete Draft PIR / NEPA	37
Public Review	41
Response to Public Review	46
Final PIR/NEPA (District Engineer Signs PIR)	50
MVD Endorses PIR to HQ	54
Start Plans and Specs (CW300)	59
Revise PMP for Design (as needed)	61
VE Study (required if project >\$2m)	
HQ Approval of PIR	61
ASA/CW Approval of PIR (unless delegated)	
Plans and Specs Approved	65
MOA for OMRR&R executed (as needed when PCA not applicable)	
Certification of land availability by RE Chief	
Contract RFP	
Contract Award	69
Construction complete	78
O&M Manual complete	
Post Project Monitoring Start	
Post Project Monitoring End	
Post Project Monitoring Report Final	
Project Fiscally Completed	

IV. EPR PLAN

A. This decision document will present the details of a feasibility study undertaken to restore island and shorelines in the UMRS as described in paragraph 2 above. This critical restoration project is part of a larger program aimed at restoration of the Upper Mississippi River Basin. This project does not meet the EPR standards outlined in the Circular.

1. Project Magnitude. The magnitude of this project is determined as low. The cost of the project will likely not exceed \$2.3 million. It is assumed that the amount of benefits accrued by the project will be worth the cost. The scale of the project is limited because the project construction footprint will be limited to approximately 5 acres but will still contribute to the overall goal of the program. The project is not considered complex and involves restoration of aquatic habitat through the implementation of standard concepts. The project will have positive long term and cumulative effects.

2. Project Risk. This project is considered low risk overall. The potential for failure is low because restoration of streambanks are straight forward concepts with numerous successful national applications. The potential for controversy regarding project implementation is low because the recommended plan will take into account the public's concerns. A socioeconomic analysis will be prepared. The uncertainty of success of the project is low because the methods used for evaluating the project are standard and the concept of implementing streambank protection measures are not innovative. The ecosystem has not reached an irreversible state so it is likely that a restoration effort of the magnitude proposed will be successful. No influential scientific information will likely be generated from this project.

3. Vertical Team Consensus. The vertical team concurs that the subject matter covered in the decision document is NOT novel, controversial, or precedent-setting, and the project will not have significant interagency interest or significant economic, environmental or social effects.

4. Therefore, a separate EPR will not be conducted on the decision document and external members will not be part of the ITR team. The ITR, Public, and Agency Review will serve as the main review approaches.

V. PUBLIC AND AGENCY REVIEW

A. Public review of the document will occur after issuance of the AFB policy guidance memo and concurrence by HQUSACE that the document is ready for public release. As such, public comments other than those provided at any public meetings held during the planning process will not be available to the review team.

B. Public review of this document will begin approximately one month after the completion of the ITR process and policy guidance memo. The estimated time frame for this review is September, 2008. The period will last 30 days.

C. The public review of necessary State or Federal permits will also take place during this period.

D. A formal State and Agency review will occur concurrently with the public review. However, it is anticipated that intensive coordination with these agencies will have occurred concurrent with the planning process. Possible public concern issues are not anticipated. Possible State and Agency issues will be addressed during NEPA.

E. Upon completion of the review period, comments will be consolidated in a matrix and addressed, if needed. A comment resolution meeting will take place if needed to decide upon the best resolution of comments. A summary of the comments and resolutions will be included in the document.

VI. MODEL CERTIFICATION

This project will use standard, well understood Habitat Evaluation Procedure (HEP) methods to evaluate benefits.

The Long Island project site has already been analyzed on a previous ecosystem enhancement project (Environmental Management Program-Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project) and a standard Wildlife Habitat Appraisal Guide (WHAG) analysis was performed. The results of that analysis will be used for this project. This is a regional model and certification/approval is currently being pursued.

The Twin Island site will be analyzed using Aquatic Habitat Appraisal Guide (AHAG) and Functional Assessment Score (FAS). These are also regional models and certification/approval is also currently being pursued.

The Methodist Lake site will be using HEP - bluegill and smallmouth bass models. The smallmouth bass model is the standard HEP model that is approved for use by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The HEP bluegill model was modified in 1990 for overwintering habitat in accordance with the HEP procedures for model modifications. This model will go through the certification process at some point in the future.

The three projects listed above will have the ITR team assess the technical and system quality of the models that have not yet been certified using criteria listed in the Protocols for Model Certification and EC 1105-2-407. This model assessment would be included with the ITR documentation.

VII. PCX COORDINATION

The appropriate PCX for this document is the National Ecosystem Planning Center of Expertise. This review plan will be submitted through the PDT District Planning Chief, to the PCX Director, Rayford Wilbanks, and PCX Deputies, Dr. David Vigh and Susan Smith, for approval. Because it was determined that this project is low magnitude and low risk, an EPR will not be required. As such, the PCX will not be asked to manage the review, but is requested to review and comment on the sufficiency of the ITR team proposed in paragraph 3.b. above. The approved review plan will be posted to the PCX website. Any public comments on the review plan will be collected by the Office of Water Project Review (OWPR) and provided to the PDT District for resolution and incorporation if needed.

VIII. APPROVAL

The PDT will carry out the review plan as described. The Team Leader will submit the plan to the PDT District Planning Chief for approval. Coordination with PCX will occur through the PDT District Planning Chief. Signatures by the individuals below indicate approval of the plan as proposed.

Thomas Kirkeeng
Team Leader, Island and Shoreline Protection
Product Delivery Team

Date

Ken Barr
Ecosystem Technical Manager,
Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program

Date

Bradley Thompson
Plan Formulation Technical Manager,
Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program

Date

Scott Whitney
District Project Manager,
Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program

Date

Gary Loss
Chief, Planning and Policy Branch
Rock Island District

Date