

CHAPTER 20

AQUATIC PLANT CONTROL

20-1. Aquatic Plant Control Program. Section 104 of the River and Harbor Act of 1958 (Public Law 85-500), as amended, and Sections 103, 105, and 712 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-662) authorize the Corps of Engineers to cooperate with other Federal and non-Federal (usually state) agencies in comprehensive programs for the control of obnoxious aquatic plants. (ER 1130-2-500 and EP 1130-2-500 are applicable to this Corps program.) Funds appropriated for this program are applied to three general categories of activities, as follows:

a. Planning. The planning part of the program is necessary to determine whether there is justification for Federal (Corps) involvement in an aquatic plant problem and to establish a specific plan of action for dealing with plant infestations. There are three planning studies: (1) Initial Appraisal; (2) Reconnaissance Report, and; (3) Detailed Project Report (DPR). The Initial Appraisal and Reconnaissance Report are accomplished with Federal funds. Subsequent development of the DPR must be cost shared 50 percent Federal and 50 percent non-Federal.

b. Management Operations. Where Federal involvement is determined to be appropriate, aquatic plant control operations are cost shared 50 percent Federal and 50 percent non-Federal in accordance with the DPR, Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) and Annual Work Plan.

c. Research. The thrust of the research effort is to identify new and more efficient tools for aquatic plant control. The cost of research dealing with problems and outputs that have regional or nationwide importance is 100 percent Federal. The cost of research conducted to provide local or site specific information is cost shared 50 percent Federal and 50 percent non-Federal. The Waterways Experiment Station is the lead laboratory for the Corps Aquatic Plant Control Research Program.

20-2. Program Controls.

a. Through the use of an initial appraisal, the district will determine the need for further study. If justified, a request for authorization and funding for a reconnaissance report is forwarded through the division and HQUSACE (CECW-ON) to the OASA(CW) in a letter report. The initiation of aquatic plant control reconnaissance reports must be approved by the ASA(CW). New studies will not be initiated unless the proposed project outputs are consistent with current budget criteria for new start construction projects. A reconnaissance report must be completed and submitted through the division and HQUSACE (CECW-ON) to the OASA(CW) for review and approval. A negotiated detailed study cost sharing agreement and a letter from the local sponsor indicating a willingness and intent to sign the agreement must be included. If approved, the ASA(CW) will authorize the district to conduct a DPR addressing details of the aquatic plant problem and the proposed plan of action.

b. An Environmental Assessment and, where appropriate, an Environmental Impact Statement must be completed for any proposed

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control operations.

c. All herbicide applications are to be performed in compliance with applicable Federal and state laws, including Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act of 1972, as amended, and the Occupation Safety and Health Act of 1970.

d. Non-Federal program sponsors must agree to hold and save the United States free from damages resulting from control operations.

20-3. Budget. In the annual budget process, the Aquatic Plant Control Program is presented as part of the Corps Construction, General appropriation request. There is a \$12 million annual limitation on Corps expenditures for the total program.