

CECW-EH-W Engineer Regulation 1110-2-1941	Department of the Army U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Washington, DC 20314-1000	ER 1110-2-1941 15 September 1981
	Engineering and Design DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLANS	
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Regulation
No. 1110-2-1941

15 September 1981

Engineering and Design
DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLANS

1. Purpose. This regulation provides policy and guidance for the preparation of drought contingency plans as part of the Corps of Engineers overall water control management activities.
2. Applicability. This regulation is applicable to all field operating activities having Civil Works responsibilities.
3. References.
 - a. Section 216, Public Law 91-611, (84 Stat. 1830), Rivers and Harbors Act of 1970.
 - b. ER 1110-2-240.
4. Policy. It is the policy of the Commander (reference 3b) that water control managers will continually review and, when appropriate, adjust water control plans in response to changing public needs. Accordingly, water control managers will:
 - a. Regulate Corps projects in response to public needs, including droughts.
 - b. Identify potential modifications to project regulation that would increase each project's capability to respond to a drought under current administrative, legislative, or other constraints.
 - c. Develop drought contingency plans on a regional, basin-wide and project basis as an integral part of water control management activities.
 - d. Make provisions for coordination with appropriate state and other Federal interests during occurrence of drought conditions as part of drought contingency plans.
 - e. Identify during development of drought contingency plans long-term opportunities to modify project storage allocations.
5. Discussion. To respond fully to public needs during drought situations, water control managers should reexamine regulation procedures and water use at all projects. Water control plans must reflect these public needs so that we may make a maximum response based on current authorities. Consequently, as part of overall water control management, drought contingency plans must be developed within existing authorities at all Corps projects with controlled reservoir storage. Coordination

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with state and other Federal interests should be part of the implementation of drought contingency plans in order to facilitate and improve project effectiveness during water-short periods. Public meetings may be held at the discretion of the district commander to inform local interests of the drought contingency plan. Internal coordination with Corps emergency operations managers to apprise them of water control activities should be included to insure that efforts being taken by the Corps during droughts are complementary to other ongoing efforts. Studies to evaluate project modifications requiring new authorities should be conducted only if opportunities for potential overall increased benefits become apparent during development of drought contingency plans within existing authority. Permanent modifications to serve long-term water needs should be addressed under authority of Section 216 of Public Law 91-611.

6. Procedure. Implementation of the policy of the Commander will involve the following procedure:

a. Development. Water control managers will evaluate and establish the limits of flexibility under existing authorities to modify project regulation and to use existing storage to respond to periods of water shortages. Drought contingency plans will be developed for completed projects within existing constraints, as shown in Figure 1, using Operation and Maintenance, General funds.

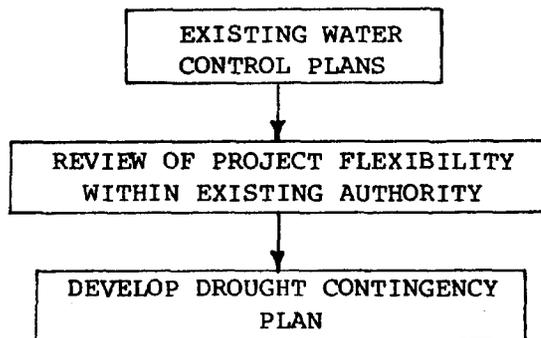


FIGURE 1. DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN DEVELOPMENT.

b. Coordination. The plans resulting from completion of the procedures in paragraph 6a above will establish a means for coordinating decisions and for implementing actions during drought conditions as shown in Figure 2.

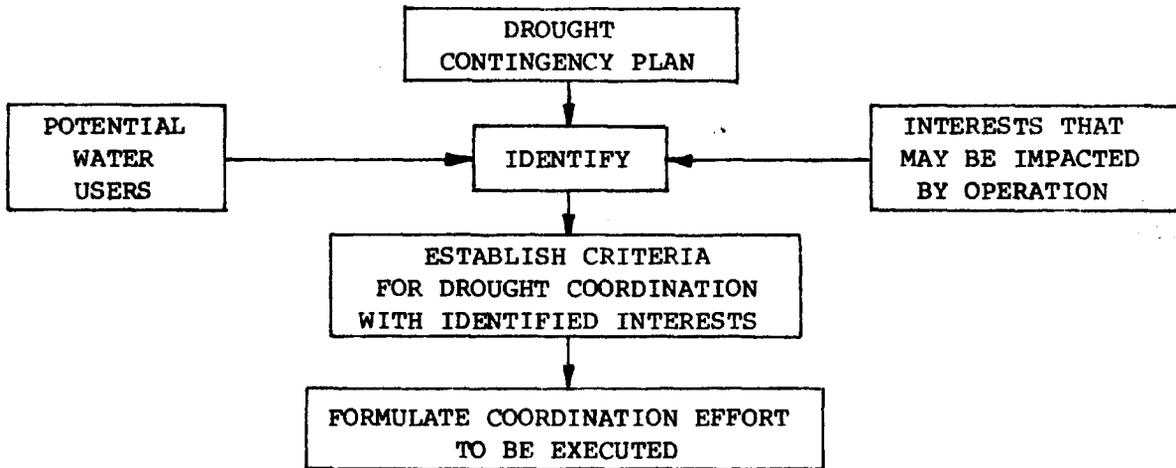


FIGURE 2. DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN COORDINATION

c. Additional Studies. After the drought contingency plan (within existing constraints) is developed, a brief reconnaissance study, as shown in Figure 3, may be initiated to evaluate the feasibility of further action if constraints are removed. These studies should only be undertaken when potential opportunities have been identified by the water control manager. If the results of the reconnaissance study indicate a high probability to improve project performance, a detailed study of sufficient quality to support a recommendation to Congress for modifying the project should be undertaken under authority of Section 216 of PL 91-611. Both reconnaissance and detailed studies undertaken should be accomplished consistent with the Review of Completed Projects Program study management procedures using General Investigation funding.

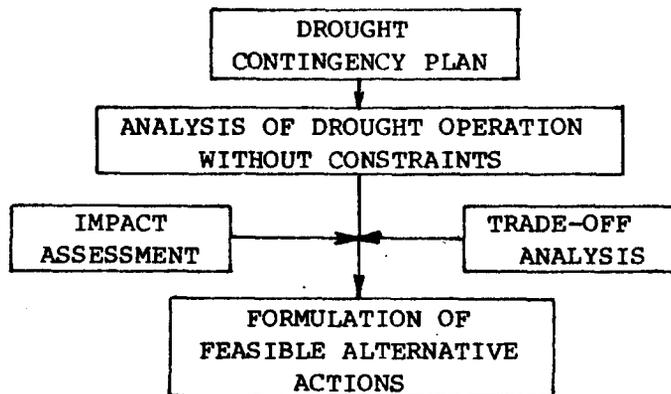


FIGURE 3. ADDITIONAL STUDIES

7. Action. A drought contingency plan that is functional within existing authorities will be developed as a part of the overall water control management plan for each Corps project or system of projects having controlled reservoir storage. Since this effort involves a

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project by project evaluation, the information developed will differ among projects. The drought contingency plan should be presented in the project Water Control Manual (or in the Master Manual for basin-wide plans) in accordance with ER 1110-2-240 (reference 3b).

8. Funding. Guidance on priority of funding the development of drought contingency plans will be provided in the annual budget guidance engineer circular.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



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Chief of Staff