

Planning Guidance Letter #97-06

Cruise Ships and Benefits to Navigation

CECW-PD (7 July 1997)

MEMORANDUM FOR MAJOR SUBORDINATE COMMANDS AND DISTRICT
COMMANDS

SUBJECT: Planning Guidance Letter No. 97-6, Cruise Ships and Benefits to
Navigation

1. Purpose. This letter provides implementing guidance for Section 230 (Benefits to Navigation) of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1996. This guidance will be incorporated into the revision of ER 1105-2-100, Guidance for Conducting Civil Works Planning Studies.

2. Background. The WRDA of 1996 directs the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to categorize all benefits generated by cruise ships as commercial navigation benefits. Benefits of navigation improvements affecting cruise ships arise from more efficient ship operations and increased tourism or enhanced tourism experience. Prior to the 1996 WRDA efficiency improvement was classified as commercial navigation and improved tourism was classified as recreation. Categorization of benefits matters because the Corps considers commercial navigation one of its high priority missions.

3. Guidance. Consistent with section 230, feasibility studies should consider economic benefits generated by cruise ships as commercial navigation benefits for project justification and cost sharing purposes.

4. Discussion. Cruise ships that operate out of existing Federal channels and harbors will receive equal consideration with other commercial navigation vessels for Federal harbor or channel improvements. Likewise, where new channels are required for cruise ships they will be treated like other new channel decisions for other commercial navigation vessels. That is, when new channels or harbors are constructed by non-Federal interests, Federal assumption of navigation maintenance may occur consistent with Section 204(f) of WRDA 1986 (as amended by Section 303(b)(1) of WRDA 1990), if approved by the Secretary of the Army for Federal assumption of maintenance prior to construction

FOR THE COMMANDER:

(Signed) RUSSELL L. FUHRMAN, Major General, USA, Director of Civil Works