

Aligning Expectations

Understanding the 3x3x3 Rule and Exemption Process

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2015 National Planning Community of Practice
Training

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US Army Corps of Engineers
**PLANNING SMART
BUILDING STRONG**



Understanding 3x3x3 Rules & Exemptions

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WRRDA 2014

To the extent practicable, a feasibility study shall—

1. result in the completion of a final feasibility report not later than 3 years after the date of initiation;
2. have a maximum Federal cost of \$3,000,000; and
3. ensure that personnel from the district, division, and headquarters levels of the Corps of Engineers concurrently conduct the review required.



3x3x3 Compliance

Before proceeding with any feasibility work a study is required to have an approved exemption per PB 2012-04 or submit to the CECW-P Chief a 3x3x3 Compliance Memorandum that consists of:

1. MSC Planning Chief endorsement of vertical alignment.
2. Schedule including the scope and funding stream which demonstrates compliance.



3x3x3 Compliance

Will continue to follow the 3x3x3 rule established by Planning Bulletin 2014-01:

1. \$3 million total (doesn't include federally funded IEPR panel cost).
2. 3 years from execution of Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement to the date of the signed Chief's Report.

Any study that exceeds the 3 years or \$3M total study cost will require justification and approval by the DCG-CEO or ASA(CW).



Exemptions

- Complex studies may require time and funds beyond three years and three million dollars to complete, and the exemption process exists specifically for these complex studies.
- It is the responsibility of the District to develop a scope, schedule, and budget for a policy compliant study that adheres to the 3x3x3 rule, citing expected risks resulting from such a project management plan.
- If the risks are determined too great, the vertical team then participates in a re-scoping of the study.



3x3x3 Exemption Process and Review

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Approval Levels

	DCG-CEO	ASA(CW)
Federal Cost <\$3million		
Federal Cost >\$3million		
Study Length>3 years		



Process

- Planning Bulletin 2012-04
- IG Section 1001 WRRDA 2014
- District Commander submits exemption request endorsed by the MSC Commander to the Regional Integration Team
- Regional Integration Team reviews package for completeness



Package

- Copy of the district commander's presentation to the Senior Leader's Panel
- Report Synopsis
- Risk Register
- SMART Project Management Plan
- Table showing original study budget and current rescope study budget
- Table showing original study milestones and current rescope study milestones

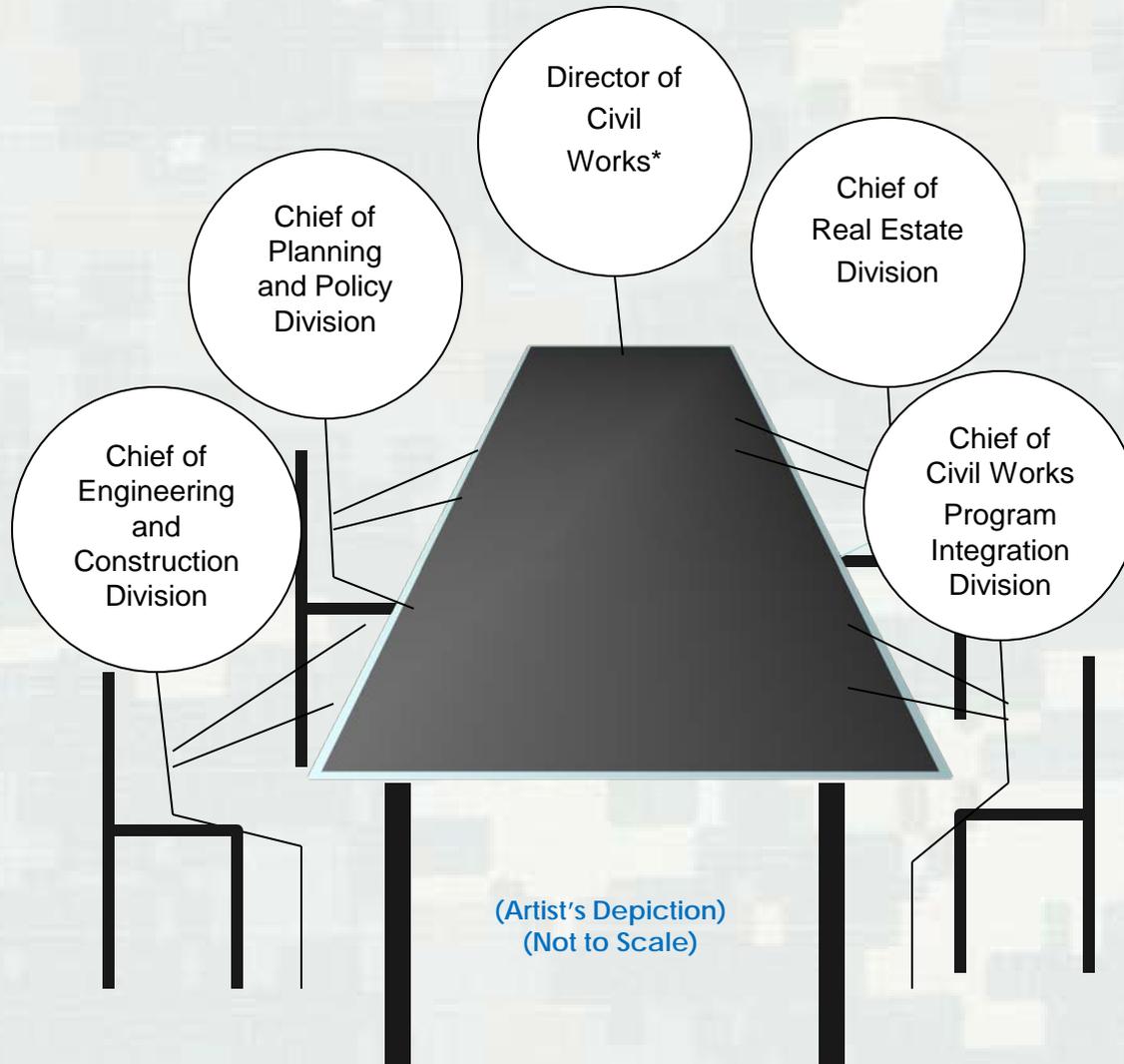


HQ Review

- Regional Integration team logs the exemption package into Office of Water Project Review
- Team involved in rescoping will either concur or nonconcur with the MSC endorsement
- If the team involved in rescoping does not concur, they will indicate additional measures within an acceptable risk level that could be taken to reduce study cost or timeframe.



Senior Leader Panel



Senior Leader Panel

- Package will be provided to the Senior Leader Panel concurrently
- Senior Leader Panel will be scheduled for no later than 1 week after package is logged in.
- The Senior Leader Panel will either concur or nonconcur with the MSC endorsement
- If the panel does not concur, they will indicate additional measures within an acceptable risk level that could be taken to reduce study cost or timeframe



DCG-CEO Role

- The panel findings are not required to be unanimous
- The findings will be provided via Staff Action Summary to the Deputy Commanding General for Civil Works-Emergency Operations
- The DCG-CEO will indicate on the Staff Action Summary either concurrence with the MSC endorsement or provide other direction
- If the exemption is denied, the study must be rescoped in accordance with the SMART Planning procedures
- The RIT will use this information to develop a Memorandum from the DCG-CEO to the MSC Commander with actions as required. An electronic copy of the DCG-CEO Memorandum will be provided to the Chief, OWPR to close the action in the review database



ASA(CW)

- Recommendation will be submitted to the ASA(CW)
- Will also include draft notification to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works and the House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure



Committee Notification

- Notification will explain reasons for cost increase or study extension
- Identify factors used to determine study is complex, including type, size, location, scope, and overall project cost
- Also whether project will use any innovative design or construction techniques
- Whether the project will require significant action by other Federal, State, or local agencies
- Whether there is significant public dispute as to the nature or effects of the project
- Whether there is significant public dispute as to the economic or environmental costs or benefits of the project



Questions?

