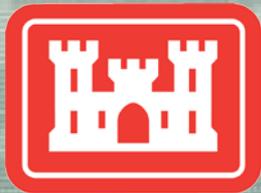


SMART Planning

Lessons Learned Post Final Feasibility Report

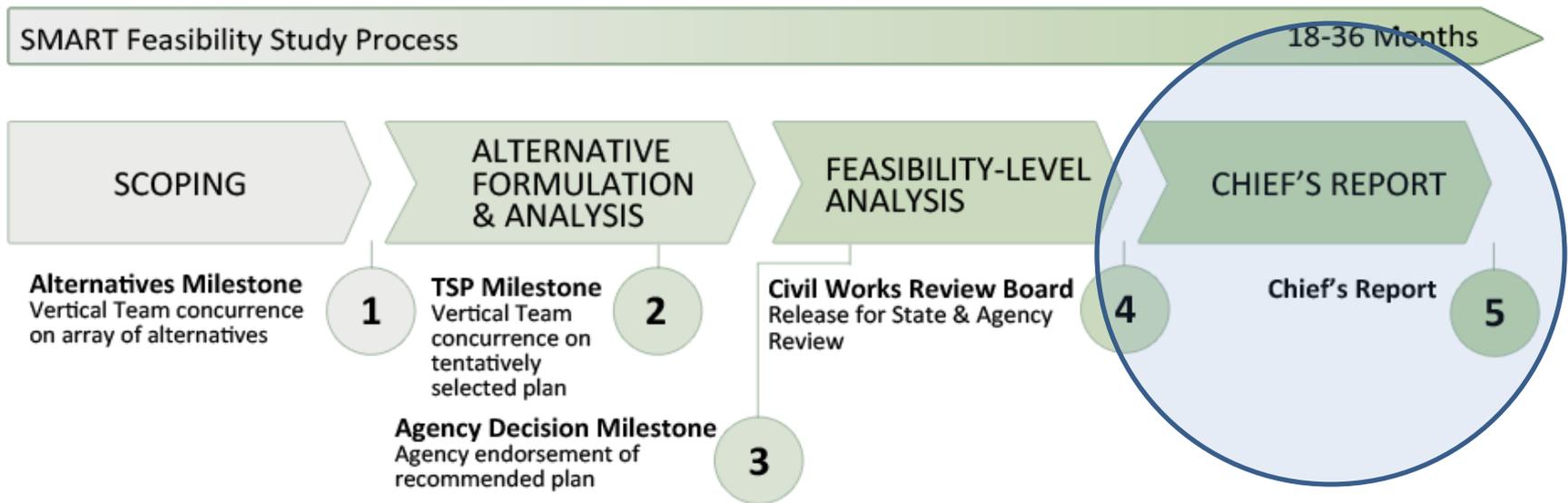
Wes Coleman
Chief, Office of Water Project Review



US Army Corps of Engineers
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The Chief's Report Phase



Expectations for Final Reports

- Quality is critical in both project development and project documentation.
- The District Commander is required to provide and the MSC Commander is required to endorse a policy compliant final report.
- “Final” means “Final.”
- Documentation size.
- PDT cover-to-cover review.



Observations Regarding Final Reports

Quality Control

- Missing legal review certification or district/MSD legal certification has problems with recommended plan or report/EIS;
- IEPR exclusion not yet processed;
- Use of models that have not been approved or certified;
- No DQC/ATR on final report;
- Final Report not signed by district commander;
- Study Project Issue Checklist is not provided or is missing signatures by district and/or MSD representatives;
- No MSD Commander's Transmittal Letter;
- A PGM is not submitted and HQUSACE comments on the draft report are not addressed.



Observations Regarding Final Reports

Environmental Planning and Compliance

- Environmental compliance incomplete (WQC, FWCA coordination/report, ESA, CZM);
- Final biological opinions being received at final feasibility report stage with unacceptable conditions/requirements;
- Missing documents such as the latest letters from the resource agencies;
- Report not updated to reflect public coordination of the draft;
- Habitat mitigation planning not done correctly.



Observations Regarding Final Reports

Costs and Cost Sharing

- Incorrect use of Project First Cost (see DCW Memo from 2011);
- Recommended Plan not in the Current Price Level and Discount Rate;
- O&M issues and costs not clear or are incorrect;
- Integration of Corps cost-shared project with existing project or work by others not well or clearly explained;
- Incorrect cost sharing – e.g., GNF (Aids to Navigation), relocations;
- Missing or Inadequate Sponsor Letter of Intent and Sponsor Financial Capability Statement;



Observations Regarding Final Reports

Report Completeness and Consistency

- Documentation inconsistencies throughout the main report and between the main report and appendices;
- Special project authorizations incorrectly stated, interpreted or applied;
- Items not included in the draft report were not pre-coordinated prior to inclusion in the final report (e.g., mitigation plans);
- Project information scattered throughout the report instead of concisely summarized;
- Blank economic tables with no data provided;
- References in the final report to other unrelated projects (cut and paste errors);
- Outdated vernacular, e.g., Actions For Change;



Observations Regarding Final Reports

Real Estate

- Sometimes RE Plans and Appendix not sufficient;
- Non-standard estates proposed but not approved.

Administrative Requirements

- Insufficient number of required copies of report and/or appendices;
- Missing or inadequate ASA(CW)/OMB Briefing slides;
- Improper format for Proposed Chief's Report. Key information about the project is missing;
- Wrong names in signature blocks.



The CWRB

- Purpose: For the DCG-CEO to determine if the draft Chief's Report can be released for State & Agency review in accordance with the 1944 Flood Control Act, as amended.
- Expectations and Guidelines.
- Scaling.



CWRB Expectations and Guidelines, 2 May 2014

- District commanders are responsible for submitting policy compliant study documents.
- MSC commanders can only endorse policy compliant study documents.
- The HQUSACE Regional Integration Team (RIT) ensures the adequacy of the MSC Final Report Submittal Package.
- Up to 6 weeks for the HQUSACE policy review team to identify key documentation concerns and to work with the vertical team on resolution. The goal will be to complete the pre-CWRB review assessment within 30 days.



CWRB Expectations and Guidelines, 2 May 2014

- A project-specific CWRB date and time will not be calendared until a complete MSC Final Report Submittal Package has been logged into the OWPR.
- Once logged for review, a tentative CWRB date will be identified within 60 days of the log-in date.
- If issues are not resolved by the completion of the assessment, the report will be returned to the MSC for additional work and revision.
- The CWRB date and time will be confirmed after the policy assessment is complete and the CWRB Panel has been pre-briefed and concur with finalizing the schedule for the CWRB.



CWRB Expectations and Guidelines, 2 May 2014

- In all cases, the Panel will be briefed within 50 days of receipt of the MSC Final Report Submittal Package.
- CWRB dates will normally be scheduled within two to three weeks of the CWRB Panel pre-brief.



CWRB Scaling

- A decision by the DCG-CEO regarding release of the draft Chief's Report for S&A review is required regardless of the size and scope of the recommendation.
- That decision will be informed by the recommendations of the reporting officers and the HQUSACE policy review team.
- The affect of the ADM on scaling the CWRB.
- A “nominal” CWRB.



What Happens After the CWRB?

- S&A Review;
- Final NEPA Review;
- Documentation of Review Findings;
- Chief's Report Package;
- Routing the Chief's Report Package for Signature;
- Copy to Congress;
- Administration Review and Endorsement to Congress.



Questions?

Type questions in the chat box.
We will answer as many
as time allows.

For more information:
<http://www.corpsplanning.us>



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