

## **Q&A: WRRDA 2014 Section 7001: Preparing the 2015 Annual Report to Congress 18 June 2015**

This webinar took place on June 18, 2015 and is part of a series of information-sharing webinars hosted by the Planning Community of Practice. Lisa Kiefel from the Planning Community of Practice / HQ, provided an overview of the requirements of WRRDA 2014, Section 7001, including expectations for District involvement in developing the Annual Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development.

More information on the Annual Report to Congress, including the Proposal submission website for the 2015 Report and the 2014 Report submitted by ASA(CW), is available on the HQUSACE website:

<http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/ProjectPlanning/WRRDA7001Proposals.aspx>

The questions and responses below are not a direct transcript; they have been reordered and edited for clarity. Additional questions and feedback are always welcome via email to [hqplanning@usace.army.mil](mailto:hqplanning@usace.army.mil)

### **Clarification on the Proposal Process**

**Are only non-federal interests allowed to submit proposals or are districts able to submit on behalf of the interests?**

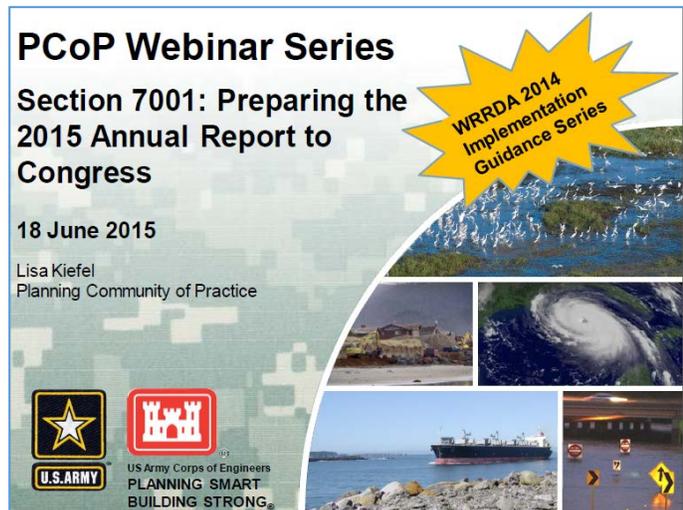
The districts do not put in any requests; proposals should come directly from the non-federal interests.

**Can you please explain in detail the actions by each of the districts, MSCs and RITs between 28 September and 25 November detailed on slide 12?**

What is anticipated is that each MSC will sort through the proposals and each district will receive only the information, as it was submitted for their district. Looking through that data, districts will then evaluate the proposal against the five criteria, and provide an explanation of the evaluation. The proposals will include points of contact and contact information for those who submitted data so if there are any questions, the district can follow up with that individual and fill in any gaps to answer those criteria questions. The District's evaluation is then passed to the MSC and RIT for Quality Control and, after that, for HQ and ASA(CW) final determination.

**In the submission form we need to also have a letter of intent and then the sponsors' financial capability, can they make attachments to this submission?**

Yes; the online submittal form also allows attachments.



The graphic is a promotional slide for a webinar. It features a blue and green background with a collage of images including a satellite view of Earth, a coastal landscape, a large ship at sea, and a road with traffic signs. Text on the slide includes: 'PCoP Webinar Series', 'Section 7001: Preparing the 2015 Annual Report to Congress', '18 June 2015', 'Lisa Kiefel, Planning Community of Practice', and the US Army Corps of Engineers logo with the slogan 'PLANNING SMART BUILDING STRONG'. A yellow starburst in the top right corner contains the text 'WRRDA 2014 Implementation Guidance Series'.

## **Resources Available to Districts**

### **What are appropriate funding sources for the Districts to use for the review of proposals and outreach to non-federal interests submitting proposals?**

This year in Special Investigations, some additional funds were provided to work with potential sponsors. If you're out of funding and require more to perform this evaluation, please let us know. We have not received additional funding for this kind of outreach, so it would come out of the Special Investigations account.

### **Are you expecting to have any handouts for prospective applicants that explain to them what should be done with regard to 7001?**

This power point can be used to create a custom power point in the field and we could put together a short paper to assist talking about what 7001 is and share it.

### **Is district review of proposals a Planning or Program Management function? Do you have a list of PoCs in each district and MSC that can look forward to getting this information in October?**

This will be in the updated WRRDA 7001 Implementation Guidance that is currently delayed but will be completed very shortly. We will be asking each District, MSC and RIT to identify the POCs that will be evaluating these proposals.

## **What proposals might be included in the Report to Congress?**

### **If a project is authorized for construction, but the decision document is needed before construction can begin, will it be included in the report?**

If a project is already authorized for construction it will not make it to the report, it will be put into the appendix. The Report to Congress under Section 7001 is solely for authorization, so if you already have study authority and construction authority, then it won't be added to the report because it doesn't meet the third criteria (not congressionally authorized).

### **If a study was submitted last year, will it be considered this year? Will it be added to the appendix?**

The proposal must be resubmitted this year; it will not be automatically carried over. If a sponsor submitted last year and it made the appendix, it can be resubmitted to see if they make the report this year. If the proposal was in the main report table last year, and they resubmit the proposal (because it has not yet been authorized), the proposal will be included in the appendix because it doesn't meet the fourth criteria (has not been included in the main table of a previous annual report).

### **Will Section 219, Environmental Infrastructure, projects be considered eligible?**

Environmental Infrastructure projects already have authorization for us to do our technical work (Section 219 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992, Public Law 102-580, as amended), so Environmental Infrastructure projects do not qualify for the report.

### **Will the project be included in the main report if it is not yet authorized for construction, but we have not completed the authorized / required decision document?**

It may, depending on how far along it is in the study. We'd recommend that your sponsor put in a proposal for project authorization.

**Will the report include proposals for modifications, if you don't have a Chief's Report but the project will be environmentally and engineering sound?**

A non-federal interest may propose a modification to an existing study authority or an existing construction authority, which could be considered for the report if it meets all five criteria.

**Do you have specific feedback on why Congress was unhappy with the 2014 Report?**

They felt that applying Administration policy restricted the number of proposals that made the main table of the Report, which would make the proposal eligible for consideration by Congress for authorization. When we applied Administration policy, proposals for projects that didn't have a decision document (but had study authorization) were included in the Appendix because they do not meet the fifth criteria (able to be carried out by USACE if authorized). Proposals seeking new or modified construction authorization are unable to be carried out by USACE, if authorized, until a cleared decision document has been submitted to Congress.