



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
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WASHINGTON, DC 20314-1000

CECG (1110-2-1150b)

JAN 22 2025

MEMORANDUM FOR Chair, Environmental Advisory Board Subcommittee, Army Science Board

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Evaluation to Streamline U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Planning Model Approval and Review Process for use in Civil Works Water Resource Development Projects

1. References:

- a. Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) of 1972 (P.L. 92-463).
- b. Department of Defense (DoD) Directive 5105.04, "Federal Advisory Committee Management Program," 6 August 2007.
- c. Engineering and Construction Bulletin 2007-6: Model Certification Issues for Engineering Software in Planning Studies, issued 10 April 2007.
- d. Engineer Circular 1105-2-407: Planning Models Improvement Program: Model Certification, CECW-CP, 31 May 2005; EXPIRED 30 Jun 2007.
- e. Protocols for Certification of Planning Models: Planning Models Improvement Program, July 2007.
- f. CECW-CP Memorandum – Subject: Policy Guidance on Certification of Ecosystem Output Models, 2008.
- g. Engineer Circular 1105-2-412: Assuring Quality of Planning Models, 31 Mar 2011.
- h. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Assuring Quality of Planning Models – Model Certification/Approval Process: Standard Operating Procedures, Feb 2012.
- i. Memorandum to Directors of National Planning Centers of Expertise – Subject: Modification of the Model Certification Process and Delegation of Model Approval for Use, 04 Dec 2017.
- j. Memorandum from the Director of Civil Works to MSC Commanders – Subject: Delegation of Model Certification, 11 May 2018.

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k. Engineering Regulation 1110-2-1150: Engineering and Design for Civil Works Projects, 31 Aug 1999.

2. Purpose: The purpose of this memorandum is to request the Environmental Advisory Board (EAB), Subcommittee of the Army Science Board to conduct a study title, "Recommendations for Streamlining of the USACE Planning Model Review and Certification Process for use in Civil Works Water Resource Development Projects".

3. Discussion:

a. Use of certified or approved models for all planning activities is mandatory for USACE Civil Works (Ref 1g). Requirements for certifying and documenting the quality of planning models have been issued in various guidance and memorandums (Ref 1c-j) and remain in effect to assure that high quality methods and tools are available to enable informed decisions on investments in the Nation's water resources infrastructure and natural environment. However, the current process may require substantial time and money that may lead to costly delays in project delivery.

b. Planning models are defined as any models and analytical tools that planners use to define water resources management problems and opportunities, to formulate potential alternatives to address the problems and take advantage of opportunities, to evaluate potential effects of alternatives and to support decision-making (Ref 1g). This does not cover engineering models used in planning activities (Ref. 1c). Guidance on quality assurance for engineering models is contained in ER 1110-2-1150, Engineering and Design for Civil Works Projects (Ref 1k).

c. The study team's tasks shall include but not limited to, the following:

i. Review existing USACE guidance, policies, and memorandums related to USACE planning model certification (Ref 1d-j).

ii. List common planning models currently not certified but are industry standards or used in academia that could be applicable and useful for USACE Civil Works planning studies.

iii. Engage with USACE model developers, practitioners, and Planning Centers of Expertise to better understand current challenges associated with model review and certification.

iv. Provide a letter report to the Chief of Engineers with the EAB's analysis and recommendations on how to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of USACE planning model review and certification process.

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4. A briefing with findings and recommendations will be provided by July 2025 to the Chief of Engineers. All study team members will operate in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act and DoD Directive 5105.4, DoD Federal Advisory Committee Management Program. USACE does not anticipate that this study will need to go into any particular matters regarding the meaning of U.S. Code, nor will it cause any study team member to be in a position of acting as a procurement official that may constitute a conflict of interest.

5. Points of Contact:

a. The Chief of Planning and Policy Division is the lead for this study and will assist the EAB study team by providing subject matter experts for coordination and consultation from across USACE. Additionally, the Ecosystem Restoration Planning Center of Expertise (ECO-PCX) will assist the EAB in accomplishing this study.

b. Questions regarding this memorandum should be directed to Dr. Kat McCain, Alternate Designated Federal Officer for the EAB, at Kathryn.McCain@usace.army.mil.



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