

Resources Development Act of 1986 which comprises this chapter.

§ 2344. Safety assurance review

(a) Projects subject to safety assurance review

The Chief of Engineers shall ensure that the design and construction activities for hurricane and storm damage reduction and flood damage reduction projects are reviewed by independent experts under this section if the Chief of Engineers determines that a review by independent experts is necessary to assure public health, safety, and welfare.

(b) Factors

In determining whether a review of design and construction of a project is necessary under this section, the Chief of Engineers shall consider whether—

- (1) the failure of the project would pose a significant threat to human life;
- (2) the project involves the use of innovative materials or techniques;
- (3) the project design lacks redundancy; or
- (4) the project has a unique construction sequencing or a reduced or overlapping design construction schedule.

(c) Safety assurance review

(1) Initiation of review

At the appropriate point in the development of detailed engineering and design specifications for each water resources project subject to review under this section, the Chief of Engineers shall initiate a safety assurance review by independent experts on the design and construction activities for the project.

(2) Selection of reviewers

A safety assurance review under this section shall include participation by experts selected by the Chief of Engineers from among individuals who are distinguished experts in engineering, hydrology, or other appropriate disciplines. The Chief of Engineers shall apply the National Academy of Science's policy for selecting reviewers to ensure that reviewers have no conflict of interest with the project being reviewed.

(3) Compensation

An individual serving as an independent reviewer under this section shall be compensated at a rate of pay to be determined by the Secretary and shall be allowed travel expenses.

(d) Scope of safety assurance reviews

A safety assurance review under this section shall include a review of the design and construction activities prior to the initiation of physical construction and periodically thereafter until construction activities are completed on a regular schedule sufficient to inform the Chief of Engineers on the adequacy, appropriateness, and acceptability of the design and construction activities for the purpose of assuring public health, safety, and welfare. The Chief of Engineers shall ensure that reviews under this section do not create any unnecessary delays in design and construction activities.

(e) Safety assurance review record

The written recommendations of a reviewer or panel of reviewers under this section and the re-

sponses of the Chief of Engineers shall be available to the public, including through electronic means on the Internet.

(f) Applicability

This section shall apply to any project in design or under construction on November 8, 2007, and to any project with respect to which design or construction is initiated during the period beginning on November 8, 2007, and ending 7 years after November 8, 2007.

(Pub. L. 110-114, title II, §2035, Nov. 8, 2007, 121 Stat. 1091.)

CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007, and not as part of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 which comprises this chapter.

“SECRETARY” DEFINED

Secretary means the Secretary of the Army, see section 2 of Pub. L. 110-114, set out as a note under section 2201 of this title.

§ 2345. Electronic submission of permit applications

(a) In general

Not later than 2 years after November 8, 2007, the Secretary shall implement a program to allow electronic submission of permit applications for permits under the jurisdiction of the Secretary.

(b) Limitations

This section does not preclude the submission of a physical copy.

(c) Authorization of appropriations

There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$3,000,000.

(Pub. L. 110-114, title II, §2040, Nov. 8, 2007, 121 Stat. 1100.)

CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007, and not as part of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 which comprises this chapter.

“SECRETARY” DEFINED

Secretary means the Secretary of the Army, see section 2 of Pub. L. 110-114, set out as a note under section 2201 of this title.

§ 2346. Project administration

(a) Project tracking

The Secretary shall assign a unique tracking number to each water resources project under the jurisdiction of the Secretary to be used by each Federal agency throughout the life of the project.

(b) Report repository

(1) In general

The Secretary shall provide to the Library of Congress a copy of each final feasibility study, final environmental impact statement, final reevaluation report, record of decision, and report to Congress prepared by the Corps of Engineers.

(2) Availability to public

Each document described in paragraph (1) shall be made available to the public, and an electronic copy of each document shall be made permanently available to the public through the Internet.

(Pub. L. 110–114, title II, § 2041, Nov. 8, 2007, 121 Stat. 1100.)

CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007, and not as part of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 which comprises this chapter.

“SECRETARY” DEFINED

Secretary means the Secretary of the Army, see section 2 of Pub. L. 110–114, set out as a note under section 2201 of this title.

§ 2347. Coordination and scheduling of Federal, State, and local actions**(a) Notice of intent**

Upon request of the non-Federal interest in the form of a written notice of intent to construct or modify a non-Federal water supply, wastewater infrastructure, flood damage reduction, storm damage reduction, ecosystem restoration, or navigation project that requires the approval of the Secretary, the Secretary shall initiate, subject to subsection (c), procedures to establish a schedule for consolidating Federal, State, and local agency and Indian tribe environmental assessments, project reviews, and issuance of all permits for the construction or modification of the project. All States and Indian tribes having jurisdiction over the proposed project shall be invited by the Secretary, but shall not be required, to participate in carrying out this section with respect to the project.

(b) Coordination

The Secretary shall seek, to the extent practicable, to consolidate hearing and comment periods, procedures for data collection and report preparation, and the environmental review and permitting processes associated with the project and related activities. The Secretary shall notify, to the extent possible, the non-Federal interest of its responsibilities for data development and information that may be necessary to process each permit required for the project, including a schedule when the information and data should be provided to the appropriate Federal, State, or local agency or Indian tribe.

(c) Costs of coordination

The costs incurred by the Secretary to establish and carry out a schedule to consolidate Federal, State, and local agency and Indian tribe environmental assessments, project reviews, and permit issuance for a project under this section shall be paid by the non-Federal interest.

(d) Report on timesavings methods

Not later than 3 years after November 8, 2007, the Secretary shall prepare and transmit to Congress a report estimating the time required for the issuance of all Federal, State, local, and tribal permits for the construction of non-Federal projects for water supply, wastewater infra-

structure, flood damage reduction, storm damage reduction, ecosystem restoration, and navigation.

(Pub. L. 110–114, title II, § 2044, Nov. 8, 2007, 121 Stat. 1102.)

CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007, and not as part of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 which comprises this chapter.

“SECRETARY” DEFINED

Secretary means the Secretary of the Army, see section 2 of Pub. L. 110–114, set out as a note under section 2201 of this title.

§ 2348. Project streamlining**(a) Policy**

The benefits of water resources projects are important to the Nation’s economy and environment, and recommendations to Congress regarding such projects should not be delayed due to uncoordinated or inefficient reviews or the failure to timely resolve disputes during the development of water resources projects.

(b) Scope

This section shall apply to each study initiated after November 8, 2007, to develop a feasibility report under section 2282 of this title, or a reevaluation report, for a water resources project if the Secretary determines that such study requires an environmental impact statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(c) Water resources project review process

The Secretary shall develop and implement a coordinated review process for the development of water resources projects.

(d) Coordinated reviews

The coordinated review process under this section may provide that all reviews, analyses, opinions, permits, licenses, and approvals that must be issued or made by a Federal, State, or local government agency or Indian tribe for the development of a water resources project described in subsection (b) will be conducted, to the maximum extent practicable, concurrently and completed within a time period established by the Secretary in cooperation with the agencies identified under subsection (e) with respect to the project.

(e) Identification of jurisdictional agencies

With respect to the development of each water resources project, the Secretary shall identify, as soon as practicable, all Federal, State, and local government agencies and Indian tribes that may—

- (1) have jurisdiction over the project;
- (2) be required by law to conduct or issue a review, analysis, or opinion for the project; or
- (3) be required to make a determination on issuing a permit, license, or approval for the project.

(f) State authority

If the coordinated review process is being implemented under this section by the Secretary