

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

COMPLETE STATEMENT OF

**LIEUTENANT GENERAL WILLIAM H. “BUTCH” GRAHAM, JR.
CHIEF OF ENGINEERS**

BEFORE

**COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT
AND RELATED AGENCIES**

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ON

**FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET REQUESTS FOR THE ARMY CORPS OF
ENGINEERS (CIVIL WORKS) AND THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION**

MAY 21, 2025

Chairman Fleischmann, Ranking Member Kaptur, and Members of the Subcommittee:

I am honored to testify before your committee today, along with Ms. Robyn Colosimo, the Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), in regard to the President's Fiscal Year 2026 (FY 2026) topline discretionary Budget request (discretionary request) for the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Civil Works Program.

Through its Civil Works Program, the Corps works with other Federal agencies, and with state, Tribal, and local agencies and others, to develop, manage, restore, and protect water resources, primarily through the construction, operation and maintenance, and study of water-related infrastructure projects. The Corps focuses on work that provides high economic, environmental, and public safety returns to the Nation. The Corps also regulates development in waters of the United States and works with other Federal agencies to help communities respond to, and recover from, floods and other natural disasters.

SUMMARY OF FY 2026 TOPLINE DISCRETIONARY REQUEST

The Civil Works Program is performance-based and focuses on high-performing projects and programs within the three main water resources missions of the Corps, which are: commercial navigation, flood and storm damage reduction, and aquatic ecosystem restoration. The Corps uses a targeted approach to invest in water resources, which will benefit the Nation now and in the future.

The discretionary request includes nearly \$6.7 billion for the Civil Works Program.

INVESTIGATIONS PROGRAM

The Investigations program of the Corps is funded both in the Investigations account and in the Mississippi River and Tributaries account. The Corps uses these funds to evaluate water resources problems and opportunities within the Corps three main mission areas, design proposed projects, and support related work. The Investigations program includes the Corps planning assistance and technical assistance programs, where the Corps shares its expertise with local communities to help them identify and understand their water resources challenges, and to develop options, with an emphasis on steps that they can take on their own to address these issues.

CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

The Construction program of the Corps is funded both in the Construction account and in the Mississippi River and Tributaries account.

The goal of the construction program is to produce as much value as possible for the Nation from the available funds. The Corps also gives priority to investments, selected

on a risk informed basis, in dam safety assurance, seepage control, and static instability correction work at dams that the Corps owns and operates.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE (O&M) PROGRAM

The O&M program of the Corps is funded both in the O&M account and in the Mississippi River and Tributaries account.

Generally, the O&M program supports completed works owned or operated by the Corps, including operation and maintenance of locks and dams along the inland waterways; maintenance dredging of inland and coastal Federal channels; operation and maintenance of multi-purpose dams and reservoirs for flood risk reduction and related purposes such as hydropower; and management of Corps facilities and lands, including serving as a responsible steward of the natural resources on those lands.

All structures age and can deteriorate over time, causing a potential decline in reliability. The Corps has a large portfolio of water resources projects, and is working to sustain the benefits that the key features of this infrastructure provides.

The Corps continues to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its operation and maintenance program. The Corps does so by targeting its investments in infrastructure maintenance, repair, and rehabilitation on a risk-informed basis. It invests in the highest priority needs with emphasis on the key features of the infrastructure that the Corps owns and operates, and in work that will reduce long-term O&M costs in real terms.

REGULATORY PROGRAM

Through its Regulatory Program, the Corps protects the Nation's waters including wetlands, and regulates development that could impede navigation, while allowing reasonable development to proceed.

FORMERLY UTILIZED SITES REMEDIAL ACTION PROGRAM (FUSRAP)

Through FUSRAP, the Corps is involved in the clean up of certain low-level radioactive materials and mixed wastes, located mostly at sites contaminated as a result of the nation's early atomic weapons development program.

CONCLUSION

The FY 2026 topline discretionary Budget request for the Corps represents a continuing, fiscally prudent investment in the Nation's water resources infrastructure. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is committed to a performance-based Civil Works Program, based on innovative, high-return, risk-informed solutions.

Thank you, Chairman Fleischmann and Members of Subcommittee. This concludes my statement. I look forward to answering any questions you or other Members of the Subcommittee may have.