



Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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February 21, 2020

SUMMARY OF SUBJECT MATTER

TO: Members, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment
FROM: Staff, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment
RE: Subcommittee Hearing on “Proposals for a Water Resources Development Act of 2020: Members’ Day Hearing”

PURPOSE

The Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment will meet on Thursday, February 27, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. in 2167 Rayburn House Office Building to receive testimony related to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Water Resources Development Act Members’ Day. The purpose of this hearing is to provide Members of Congress with an opportunity to testify before the Subcommittee on their priorities in relation to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). Testimony will help to inform the Committee’s drafting of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2020, which the Committee expects to approve this year.

BACKGROUND

The Corps is the Federal government’s largest water resources development and management agency. The Corps began its water resources program in 1824 when Congress, for the first time, appropriated funds for improving river navigation. Since then, the Corps’ primary missions have expanded to address river and coastal navigation, the reduction of flood damage risks along rivers, lakes, and the coastlines, and projects to restore and protect the environment. Along with these missions, the Corps generates hydropower, provides water storage opportunities to cities and industry, regulates development in navigable waters, assists in national emergencies, and manages a recreation program. To achieve its mission, the Corps plans, designs, and constructs water resources development projects.

The Water Resources Development Act is the authorizing vehicle for the Corps’ policy, studies, and construction of projects. To date, Congress has received 18 Chief’s Reports, 10 Director’s Reports, and four pending 203 studies from the Corps for projects. The Corps also submitted its 7001 Annual Report to Congress in June 2019. The 7001 Annual Report for 2020 is expected in February 2020. Access to reports submitted to Congress can be found on the Committee website.¹

¹<https://transportation.house.gov/committee-activity/issue/water-resources-development-act-of-2020>.