

MEMORANDUM FOR Commander, Albuquerque District, ATTN CESPA-PM
Commander, Los Angeles District, ATTN CESPL- PD
Commander, Sacramento District, ATTN CESPK-PD
Commander, San Francisco District, ATTN CESP-PE

SUBJECT: Integration of National Environmental Policy Act Documents and Corps Decision Documents

1. Present HQUSACE guidance indicates that the EIS (NEPA document) should be integrated into the text of the feasibility report unless complex environmental impacts preclude this alternative. Up to this point, however, most decision documents have, instead, included a self-supporting NEPA document bound with the decision document. This memorandum phases in the requirement that EA's and EIS's be integrated into decision documents.
2. The intent of the integrated document is to reduce paperwork and redundancy, and to consolidate planning documentation into a consistent report. It is also encouraged by the NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1500.2 and 1506.4). The results of this integration should eliminate inconsistencies, put all of the information important for decision making in one place, provide more complete information to the public, save resources, require planners and others to address and understand issues raised through the NEPA process and, most importantly, increase teamwork by integrating the NEPA document preparers directly into the problem solving and decision making process.
3. Alternative formats can be used for integrating the NEPA document and the decision document. These formats include those in Appendix F of ER 1105-2-100, the EIS outline in the NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1502.10), or other format that may better meet the needs of a particular study and that includes the required paragraphs and content that is spelled out in the CEQ regulations.
4. All projects and studies are encouraged to use the integrated approach. This would include feasibility reports for Congressionally authorized projects, feasibility reports for CAP projects and post-authorization decision documents. As this change is intended to increase efficiency, you are not required to change the direction for ongoing studies. To demonstrate the benefits and identify any problems, each district shall, however, select at least one current study to apply the integrated approach. Once this study is selected, CESPD-ET-P staff will be available to provide any assistance that is required. The selected studies will be identified to this office by 30 November 1999.

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5. The Section 905(b) (WRDA 86) Analysis for all FY 2000 new-start reconnaissance studies will identify the preparation of an integrated document in the summary of feasibility study assumptions, unless a request is made to waive this requirement. The request for this waiver would also be highlighted in the transmittal letter for the Section 905(b) Analysis.

6. Nothing in this integrated approach is to be interpreted as a relaxation of our obligation to fully meet the requirements of the CEQ regulation.

FOR THE COMMANDER

KEN ORTH
Chief, Planning Division