US Army Corps of Engineers®

ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION BULLETIN

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Subject: USACE Environmental Operating Principles

Applicability: Directive

1. Background: The Corps often faces difficult issues associated with multiple and competing interests. The best way to deal with these issues is to consider the perspectives of all stakeholders, apply the best science and technology, and strive to achieve a synergy between environmental and economic interests. The Corps must think of its legacy - not just efficient ways to meet today's needs. Accordingly, the Chief of Engineers issued the USACE Environmental Operating Principles.

2. Purpose: To emphasize the fact that the principles reflect a new tone and direction for USACE; they are not "business as usual."

3. Policy: Engineering and Construction personnel throughout the Corps will integrate the following USACE Environmental Operating Principles into our Engineering and Construction culture, business processes and projects.

a. Strive to achieve environmental sustainability. An environment maintained in a healthy, diverse and sustainable condition is necessary to support life.

b. Recognize the interdependence of life and the physical environment. Proactively consider environmental consequences of Corps programs and act accordingly in all appropriate circumstances.

c. Seek balance and synergy among human development activities and natural systems by designing economic and environmental solutions that support and reinforce one another.

d. Continue to accept corporate responsibility and accountability under the law for activities and decisions under our control that impact human health and welfare and the continued viability of natural systems.

e. Seek ways and means to assess and mitigate cumulative impacts to the environment; bring systems approaches to the full life cycle of our processes and work.

f. Build and share an integrated scientific, economic, and social knowledge base that supports a greater understanding of the environment and impacts of our work.

g. Respect the views of individuals and groups interested in Corps activities, listen to them actively, and learn from their perspective in the search to find innovative win-win solutions to the nation's problems that also protect and enhance the environment.

4. Point of contact for this bulletin is Dale Otterness, CECW-ETV, 202-761-7697.

DWIGHT A. BERANEK, P.E.
Chief, Engineering and Construction Division
Directorate of Civil Works