

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

COMPLETE STATEMENT

OF

MAJOR GENERAL SCOTT SPELLMON
DEPUTY COMMANDING GENERAL FOR
CIVIL AND EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ON

A REVIEW OF RECENTLY COMPLETED UNITED STATES ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS CHIEF'S REPORTS

September 7, 2018

Mr. Chairman and distinguished members of the Subcommittee, I am honored to be testifying before you today to discuss Reports of the Chief of Engineers (Chief's Reports) and Post Authorization Change Reports (PACRs) completed since the passage of H.R.8, the Water Resources Development Act of 2018. I am Major General Scott Spellmon, Deputy Commanding General, Civil and Emergency Operations, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). This is the first time I appear before you in my current position; I previously served as the Commander of the Corps Northwestern Division. I look forward to continuing to work with this Committee. There are six projects that have reports by the Chief of Engineers but are still under Executive Branch review. Also, there are three pending PACRs currently under Executive Branch review. The Secretary's office has also forwarded to the Congress a study provided by a non-federal interest under the authority of Section 203 of WRDA 1986 (P. L. 99-662), as amended, with the Secretary's Review Assessment of the study.

I first would like to provide a brief update on the 2018 Report to Congress on Future Water Resources development as required by Section 7001 of WRRDA 2014. The notice requesting proposals by non-federal interests for proposed feasibility studies and proposed modifications to authorized water resources development projects was published in the Federal Register on April 20, 2018. The Federal Register Notice is posted on the Corps Headquarters website and the Corps has utilized social media throughout the open season to inform the public of the opportunity to submit proposals. The Corps hosted a public webinar on July 31, 2018 that explained the criteria that proposals must meet, the process to submit proposals and the timeline to be considered for the 2018 Report. Notification to the public regarding this webinar was provided through social media on several days through July of 2018 and it also located on the Corps of Engineers website. The deadline for non-federal interests to submit proposals to the Corps was August 20, 2018. There were 34 proposals received.

The six proposed projects with reports by the Chief of Engineers since passage of H.R. 8 that were neither included in H.R. 8 nor already authorized and that the Executive Branch is in the process of reviewing are:

- San Joaquin River Basin, Lower San Joaquin, California (Flood Risk Management)
- Seattle Harbor, Washington (Navigation)
- Norfolk Harbor and Channels, Virginia (Navigation)
- San Juan Harbor Improvements, Puerto Rico (Navigation)
- Three Rivers, Arkansas (Navigation)
- Resacas at Brownsville, Texas (Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration)

There are also three PACRs that are under Executive Branch review. These reports are:

- St. Marys River, Soo Locks, Michigan (Navigation)
- Chickamauga Lock, Tennessee River, Tennessee (Navigation)

- South Florida Ecosystem Restoration (Kissimmee River), Florida (Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration)

In July of 2018, the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works forwarded to the Congress a study prepared by a non-federal interest, South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), under the authority of Section 203 of WRDA 1986, as amended, with the Secretary's Review Assessment of the study. This study and Review Assessment do not constitute a Chief's Report. The SFWMD's study addresses water storage and conveyance needs in the Everglades Agricultural Area south of Lake Okeechobee. In the Review Assessment, the Secretary found South Florida Water Management District's proposed project to be feasible from an engineering and construction viewpoint, but did not make a determination of the economic or environmental feasibility of the plan. The Review Assessment detailed a number of significant concerns with the study, provided recommendations concerning the plan and design of the proposed project and specific conditions that must be met to proceed to construction.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my statement. I appreciate the opportunity to testify today and look forward to answering any questions you may have.