

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20314-1000

*ER 1110-2-1455

CECW-EC

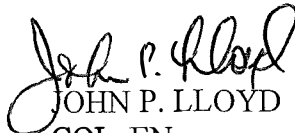
Regulation
No. 1110-2-1455

30 October 2020

Engineering and Design
COOPERATIVE HYDROLOGIC DATA PROGRAMS

1. Purpose. This regulation establishes policy, provides background, and discusses management of hydrologic data programs such as the Cooperative Stream Gaging Program between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the United States Geological Survey (USGS), and the Cooperative Reporting Network Program conducted by the National Weather Service (NWS). The regulation discusses the program requirements and method of collecting funds from the districts for these data collection programs.
2. Applicability. This regulation applies to all Headquarters, USACE (HQUSACE) elements and all USACE Commands having Civil Works (CW) planning, engineering, design, construction, and operations & maintenance responsibilities.
3. Distribution Statement. Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


JOHN P. LLOYD
COL, EN
Chief of Staff

*This regulation supersedes Engineer Regulation (ER) 37-2-18, dated 20 August 1998 and ER 1110-2-1455, dated 29 June 1984.

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4. Reference.

a. ER 1110-2-240, Water Control Management.

https://www.publications.usace.army.mil/Portals/76/Publications/EngineerRegulations/ER_1110-2-240.pdf

b. Memorandum of Agreement between the U.S. Department of Interior and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, effective date: 5 June 2020.

<https://cops.usace.army.mil/sites/IIS/MOA/SIGN%20Final%20MOA%20USACE%20and%20DOI%205.5.2020%20MEN%20Signed.pdf>

c. Memorandum of Agreement between the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, dated: 17 April 2017.

<https://cops.usace.army.mil/sites/IIS/MOA/NOAA-USACE%20MOA%2017%20Apr%202017.pdf>

5. Records Management (Recordkeeping) Requirements. Records management requirements for all record numbers, associated forms and reports required by this regulation are included in the Army's Records Retention Schedule—Army. Detailed information for all record numbers, forms, and reports associated with this regulation are located in the Army's Records Retention Schedule—Army at <https://www.arims.army.mil/arims/default.aspx>.

6. Policy. The policy of USACE is to fully utilize the facilities and services of other federal agencies, when it is in the interest of USACE, is more economical and/or will result in a more satisfactory operation than would be achieved by independent USACE action, and is otherwise legally permissible. This policy pertains to obtaining the many types of hydrologic data and appropriate services required by the USACE districts in connection with their water resources investigations and water management missions.

7. Background.

a. The Cooperative Stream Gaging Program was established in approximately 1940 by arrangements between USACE and USGS to meet special USACE data needs, both quality and quantity, in connection with water resources responsibilities (e.g., planning studies, monitoring

river conditions during construction, and water management of completed projects). Arrangements were made for the USGS to operate and maintain specific gaging stations for the USACE on a reimbursable basis.

b. The program has been operating on a continuing basis, subject to adjustments to conform to current data requirements and the availability of funds. The water data acquired by the USACE from these stations are also available for use by all federal, state, and private agencies, as well as individuals interested in water data. The Cooperative Reporting Network Program with the NWS is a similar program based on arrangements between USACE and NWS to meet USACE data needs. Most of the discussion in the regulation is directed at the Cooperative Stream Gaging Program with USGS, but the policies are applicable to both cooperative programs.

8. Program Management.

a. Objective. Districts will design and maintain stream gaging programs that will meet USACE needs at a minimum cost. The programs must meet the peak demands for data such as that which may occur during a major flood event.

(1) Appropriate stream gaging data are important to planning and design of water resources projects and water resources management programs, and include both quantity and quality information. Basic data must be available upstream and downstream of water resources projects on a timely basis for effective regulation. Gaging station networks should be established or validated for projects during the design process. Gage data are necessary for the hydraulic aspects of projects designs and for regulating projects, as described in ER 1110-2-240.

(2) District data collection programs must be flexible, efficient, and cost effective. Stations should be eliminated when data from the stations are no longer required to meet USACE responsibilities. However, collection of data essential for effective regulation of USACE projects must be ensured. For cost effectiveness, the following questions may be helpful when determining the need for each existing or new station.

(a) Is a continuous record necessary for hydrologic planning, reservoir regulation, litigation, or legal considerations?

(b) Would seasonal operation of certain gaging stations satisfy data needs?

(c) Would peak flows only, or stages only, satisfy USACE needs?

(d) Is a published record necessary for USACE needs?

(e) Do data needs require the capability to remotely monitor the gage at any time?

(f) Would real-time data improve regulation or provide other benefits applicable to the USACE mission?

- (g) Is the discharge rating stable enough to reduce the frequency of discharge measurements?
- (h) Are other technologies available to provide this data?

b. Program Formulation. District Commanders or their delegees will evaluate each station annually to ensure that the appropriate data are collected to meet the requirements associated with their established water resources objectives. In doing so, stations may be moved, added, modified, or dropped, depending upon continuing or changing USACE needs, the completion of a study, changes in USACE responsibility, or a change in mission. Since the program is established for adequate, efficient coverage, a shortage of funds is an unacceptable reason in itself, but must be associated with a functional change.

(1) The stream gaging program will be formulated in close coordination with the appropriate USGS local offices (USGS state or regional science centers). A detailed list of stations for which flow and/or stage data are required will be furnished to the USGS, along with a request for the USGS estimate of the cost of installing and/or operating and maintaining each station. Close coordination with the USGS is essential to ensure continuity and efficiency in management. USGS local offices must be informed of stations that will continue, as well as deletions or additional requirements in sufficient time so they can develop their management plans. While it is appropriate that this coordination be conducted via meetings, email, and telephone conversations, the information must be documented and transmitted formally. Furthermore, districts are reminded that the USGS participates on a reimbursable basis.

(2) The District Commanders or their delegees will also determine, following the guidelines provided in this regulation, the proper type of funds to be used in financing the USACE portion of the program. The final district program will be forwarded by the District Commander or his/her delegee to the respective Division Commander or his/her delegee.

(3) The Division Commander or his/her delegee will review each district's program annually and determine that proper coordination with the USGS and/or NWS has been completed. Divisions will provide annual summaries and final programs to HQUSACE Headquarters, CW, Engineering and Construction Division (CECW-EC).

(4) Supplemental instructions pertaining to preparation and transmittal of these reports will be issued by CECW-EC on as-needed basis.

c. CW Funding Categories. The cooperative stream gaging stations may be assigned to five funding categories. These funding categories are based on the types of gaging activities and the funding structure of CW activities. During the annual program review, an evaluation will be made to ascertain whether individual stream gages are serving a USACE requirement and whether they have been assigned to the proper funding category. In every funding category, stations must be identified with a project. No funds should be expended under the Cooperative Stream Gaging Program for gages that are maintained solely for potential emergency situations. The five funding categories and the type of activities they support are:

(1) Category A: Headquarters General Coverage (HGC) Funds. Stations that do not have specific study or project funds available can be funded under this category. HGC stations are funded by HQUSACE using the Remaining Items Accounts under the General Investigations: Collection and Study of Basic Data, funds appropriated specifically for stream gaging stations. One type of station that qualifies for use of HGC funds is one for which there is an anticipated need for data in connection with future requirements. Other stations may qualify for HGC funds if there is a need for data in connection with an active authorized study, which is currently not funded, or if there is a time lag between the authorizations of funding from one phase to another.

(2) Category B: General Investigations (GI) Funds. Gages that are necessary in connection with survey studies and any other preauthorization or preconstruction planning are placed in this category. GI funds are available for short-term stations.

(3) Category C: Operation and Maintenance General (O&M) Funds. After a project is operational, the stream gage is funded under O&M. Funds from this category may be used as long as the gage is needed for project regulation.

(4) Category D: Construction General (CG) Funds. Gages that are necessary in connection with a project that is under construction are funded by CG funds. Before a project is operational, but after construction has been authorized and funded, required gages are funded through this category.

(5) Category E: Mississippi River & Tributaries (MR&T) Funds. Gages that are necessary in connection with construction, operations and maintenance, and related efforts for the projects in the Mississippi River and Tributaries are funded from MR&T appropriations.

d. Section 7 Projects. Section 7 of the 1944 Flood Control Act involves non-USACE reservoirs that have a federally funded flood control and/or navigation storage allocation. The owner of the non-USACE project should provide financial support for the stream gages that are needed to carry out the USACE prescribed water control plan for the reservoir. In the event the project owner is unable to pay for the necessary stream gages, the USACE may agree to fund the station under O&M Category C, after consideration of data needs and funding availability.

e. Non-Cooperative Program Stations. In addition to the stations included in the Cooperative Program, a number of districts independently operate, maintain, and finance a number of stream gaging stations, as required for special purposes. Due to the special nature of these stations and that they may be operated for a limited time only, their inclusion in the Cooperative Program may be impractical. These independent stations will be evaluated annually, and information supporting the establishment or continuation of these stations and their required funds will also be submitted by the districts along with their final Cooperative Program documents.

f. Funding. The funds required to finance the program will be budgeted by the Chief of Engineers, districts, divisions, and USGS, according to the respective agency budgetary guidance as follows:

(1) Program Budgeting.

(a) HQUSACE. HQUSACE will arrange to finance only those cooperative stations included in General Coverage HGC (Category A) and which, by definition, are not chargeable to an active report or authorized project. The Budget Justification Sheet will state the total funds needed for non-Corps projects within the fiscal year's Cooperative Program.

(b) USACE Districts. The cost of stations chargeable to GI, O&M, and CG appropriations will be financed from project and report funds available to the District Commanders or their delegates. Request for funds necessary to finance these stations will be included in the appropriate budget estimates submitted to the HQUSACE annually by the District and Division Commanders or their delegates. Since proposals for the Cooperative Program must be formulated, reviewed, and revised prior to the President's Budget, the District Commanders or their delegates must anticipate changing data needs and the availability of project funds. However, since the gaging program is designed to meet minimum mission requirements, major changes in the program are not expected, unless missions change.

(c) Amount of Payment. To finance the above-mentioned programs, project funds will be collected from the districts and/or divisions by the USACE Finance Center (UFC), which will subsequently transfer funds to the cooperating agencies, USGS and NWS, using appropriate reimbursable agreement documentation. The CW Revolving Fund should not be used to fund these programs. Once coordination with USGS and NWS headquarters is complete and the programs are finalized, CECW-EC will inform each division and district office summarizing the funds required for the USGS and the NWS. The UFC will issue government orders to USGS and NWS for their respective cooperative programs based on the final agreement.

(d) Method of Payment. The UFC uses the facility cross-charge functionality in the Corps of Engineers Financial Management System to track the cost of providing goods and services, as well as to record the revenue through distributive charges for goods and/or services provided. The standard distributable resource code for the Cooperative Stream Gaging Program is UFCXHYDRO. Costs will be distributed by the UFC, no later than 5 business days prior to the end of each month, based on 12 equal monthly billings, and will begin once coordination between USGS, NWS, and CECW-EC is complete. Appropriate division and district personnel must take action to set up one cross-charge purchase request and commitment for their activity. Each activity will internally distribute costs to the project level using the in-house resource code HYDRODIST.

g. Program Revision. After it has been submitted to HQUSACE, recommendations regarding revision of the current Cooperative Stream Gaging Program will be processed in accordance with one of the following methods, after coordination of details with local representatives of the USGS. The recommendations will contain a description and justification for the change, an estimate of the cost, the funding category of the station involved, and the type and availability of funds to which the work is to be charged. However, any changes for the current or budget fiscal years must reach CECW-CE not later than one month following the

beginning of the fiscal year or 30 days after the President submits the budget to Congress, whichever is later.

(1) Headquarters General Coverage (HGC) Stations. Recommendations regarding revisions to the annual program that are proposed to be funded by HGC (Funding Category A) funds will be forwarded through the division office to HQUSACE for determination of availability of funds and for final approval.

(2) Stations Funded by Districts. Recommendations regarding revisions to the annual program for which district funds are to be used (Categories B through E) will be submitted to the Division Commander or his/her delegee for review and approval. Any revisions to the program after submittal of the division report, will be coordinated between division and HQUSACE. If the HQUSACE program has not been finalized, the revisions can be incorporated into that year's program. In any case, modifications will be handled by direct arrangements with the local USGS representative and financed on a reimbursable basis at the field level. All necessary changes should be completed no later than the end of the third quarter of the fiscal year. Copies of pertinent correspondence will be forwarded to CECW-EC.

(3) Budgeting Guideline Exceptions. Occasionally, unforeseen anomalies to conventional district programs may arise and require additional funding from the Cooperative Stream Gaging Program. For example, a stream gage destroyed by a severe high-water condition may necessitate a costly replacement item that has not been programmed. Written justification of the revision is necessary unless waived by CECW-EC.

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