

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SOUTHWESTERN DIVISION, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
1100 COMMERCE STREET
DALLAS, TEXAS 75242-0216



Reply to
Attention of:

01 OCT 2007

CESWD-PDS-P

MEMORANDUM FOR Commander, Galveston District

SUBJECT: Review Plan Approval for the GIWW, Vicinity of Port Isabel, Texas Feasibility Report

1. References:

- a. EC 1105-2-408, 31 May 2005, subject: Peer Review of Decision Documents.
 - b. Memorandum, CECW-CP, 30 March 2007, subject: Peer Review Process.
2. The enclosed Review Plan for the GIWW, Vicinity of Port Isabel, Texas Feasibility Report has been prepared in accordance with referenced guidance.
3. This plan has been made available for public comment, and the comments received have been incorporated. It has been coordinated with the Inland Navigation Planning Center of Expertise of the Lakes and Rivers Division which is the lead office to execute the plan. The Review Plan does not include External Peer Review.
4. I hereby approve this Review Plan, which is subject to change as study circumstances require, consistent with study development under the Project Management Business Process. Subsequent revisions to this plan or its execution will require new written approval from this office. For further information on this issue please contact Lanora Wright, CESWD-PDS at (469) 487-7032.

Encl


KENDALL P. COX
Colonel, EN
Commanding

**Project Review Plan
Independent Technical Review and External Peer Review**

**Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Texas
Vicinity of Port Isabel Navigation Project
Section 216
USACE - Galveston District**

1. PURPOSE

Pursuant to Engineering Circular (EC) 1105-2-408, "Peer Review of Decision Documents," Office of Management and Budget's "Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review," and the May 30, 2007 memorandum from Major General Don Riley, USACE Director of Civil Works, a Project Review Plan (PRP) is being developed for the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW), Texas, Vicinity of Port Isabel Navigation Project, Section 216 Feasibility Study. This PRP analyzes the need for Independent Technical Review (ITR) and External Peer Review (EPR) plans and defines the responsibilities and roles of members of the study and technical review teams.

2. APPLICABILITY

This document provides the PRP for the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW), Texas, Vicinity of Port Isabel Navigation Project, Section 216 Feasibility Study. It identifies quality control processes and independent technical review for all work to be conducted under this study authority, including in-house, Sponsor and contract work.

3. REFERENCES

- EC 1105-2-408 "Peer Review of Decision Documents", dated May 31, 2005
- ER 1105-2-100 "Planning Guidance Notebook & Appendices," dated April 2000
- Galveston District Quality Management Plan, dated May 30, 2007

4. GENERAL

The Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) is part of the Nation's inland waterway system and stretches from Brownsville, Texas, along the entire Gulf of Mexico to St. Marks, Florida. The Vicinity of Port Isabel Navigation Project is located on the lower Texas coast between the Queen Isabella Causeway Bridge at Port Isabel and the intersection with the Brownsville, Texas Ship Channel. The existing project provides for a 12-foot by 125-foot channel transiting the Laguna Madre and passing under two bridges at Port Isabel before joining the Brownsville Ship Channel. The current study will develop and evaluate alternatives for navigation problems that directly affect the GIWW in the Vicinity of Port Isabel, Texas. To allow for a more effective, safe, and efficient waterway, the study will focus on eliminating the major problems contributing to inefficiencies on the waterway, such as one-way traffic, high shoaling rates due to extreme wind and current effects, and the high number of groundings, which contribute to safety concerns.

5. ITR REQUIREMENTS

Pursuant to EC 1105-2-408, the District will coordinate the draft Feasibility Report with a Corps ITR team assigned by the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, Huntington District, Planning Center of Expertise (PCX) for Inland Navigation located in Huntington, West Virginia. It is recommended that the ITR be handled within the Corps. An EPR is not anticipated at this time. The project magnitude of evaluating alternatives that would allow for a more effective, safe, and efficient waterway and project risks (potential for failure or controversy and uncertainties of predictions and outcomes) are considered minimal. Routine ITR and policy reviews are expected at this time. If unforeseen issues arise the need for an EPR will be reconsidered. As a result, the ITR will focus on:

- Review of the planning process and criteria applied.
- Review of the methods of preliminary analysis and design.
- Compliance with client, program and NEPA requirements.
- Completeness of preliminary design and support documents.

The PCX shall furnish all personnel, equipment, materials, and supplies necessary to perform ITR for the on-going feasibility study being performed for the proposed Vicinity of Port Isabel Navigation Project.

The PCX will provide technical and policy review and assistance to ensure successful execution of the quality control process for the products developed during the formulation study phase. The following disciplines will be required:

- Plan Formulator
- Economist
- Coastal Environmentalist
- Engineers – General, Cost Estimator, H&H, GeoTech
- Real Estate

The following tasks will be performed:

A. Team Leader and one to two team members will meet with District staff and local sponsor and their contractor to review project and discuss major assumptions, analyses, and calculations.

B. Team Leader and one to two members will attend one Project Delivery Team (PDT) meeting at the District. PDTs are developed for projects being evaluated during feasibility analysis and made up of a multi-disciplinary group. This group includes members from all disciplines within the District, a representative of the project sponsor, and others, as necessary. It is the goal of this team to ensure expedient and open communication between all team members and disciplines to insure timely completion of the study. The PCX representative will attend one PDT meeting to discuss major assumptions, analyses, and calculations to avoid significant comments later that could adversely affect project schedules and costs. Subsequent attendance of PDT meetings can be by teleconference.

ITR Certification

9. PROJECT RISK

An EPR is not anticipated at this time. The project magnitude of evaluating alternatives that would allow for a more effective, safe, and efficient waterway and project risks (potential for failure or controversy and uncertainties of predictions and outcomes) are considered minimal. Routine ITR and policy reviews are expected at this time. If unforeseen issues arise the need for an EPR will be reconsidered.

10. PROJECT REVIEW PLAN

The components of the PRP were developed pursuant to the requirements of EC 1105-2-408.

A. General Information

The decision documents that will undergo ITR are the Feasibility Report (including the Economic Appendix), Engineering Appendix, Cost Appendix and Environmental Assessment.

1. The District PDT will be comprised of:

<u>Name, Org. & Discipline</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>E-Mail</u>
XXXXXX Project Manager CESWG-PM-J	(XXX) XXX-XXXX	
XXXXXX Planning Lead CESWG-PE-PL	(XXX) XXX-XXXX	
XXXXXX Economist CESWG-PE-PL	(XXX) XXX-XXXX	
XXXXXX Environmental Lead CESWG-PE-PR	(XXX) XXX-XXXX	
XXXXXX Archeologist CESWG-PE-R	(XXX) XXX-XXXX	
XXXXXX Design Project Engineer CESWG-EC-EP	(XXX) XXX-XXXX	

D. External Peer Review Process

An EPR is not anticipated at this time. The project magnitude of evaluating alternatives that would allow for a more effective, safe, and efficient waterway and project risks (potential for failure or controversy and uncertainties of predictions and outcomes) are considered minimal. Routine ITR and policy reviews are expected at this time. If unforeseen issues arise the need for an EPR will be reconsidered.

E. Public Comment

<u>Task</u>	<u>Start Date</u>	<u>Finish Date</u>
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Public Scoping Meeting		
Interdisciplinary Team (ICT) Meetings		

A public involvement program has been established.

F. Dissemination of Public Comment

No significant public comments are anticipated.

G. Reviewers

Since the feasibility study is a Section 216 study, anticipated disciplines of ITR team members are:

- 1) Planning
- 2) Economics
- 3) Coastal Environment
- 4) General Engineering
- 5) Cost Engineering
- 6) Hydrology and Hydraulic Engineering
- 7) Geotechnical
- 8) Real Estate

H. Review Disciplines

The expertise that should be brought to the review team includes the following:

- 1) Planning – The reviewer(s) should have recent experience in reviewing Plan Formulation processes for multi-objective studies and be able to draw on “lessons learned” in advising of best practices.
- 2) Economics – The reviewer(s) should have a solid understanding of Economic Models and their application to shallow draft navigation.
- 3) Coastal Environment – The reviewer(s) should have a solid background in coastal environmental ecology and issues.

- 4) General Engineering – The reviewer(s) should have solid knowledge of ship channel design.
- 5) Cost Engineering – The reviewer(s) should have extensive knowledge of cost estimating and MII cost estimates.
- 6) Hydrology and Hydraulic Engineering – The reviewer(s) should have extensive knowledge of ship simulation modeling and coastal hydrology.
- 7) Geotechnical – The reviewer(s) should have extensive knowledge of coastal geomorphology.
- 8) Real Estate – The reviewer(s) should have extensive knowledge of real estate requirements for navigation projects.