

Lesson 14

Congressional Justifications and Departmental Hearings

Congressional Justifications and Departmental Hearings

Objective:

- To Discuss the Justification Materials Submitted to Congress and the Sequence and Nature of Congressional Appropriations Committees Hearings. Also...Public Works Committee Hearings.
- Content and Importance of Justification Materials
- Conduct of Committee Hearings

Justification Material

- Prepared for Appropriations Committees
 - Justification for Individual Items Contained in the President's Budget
 - Format Prescribed by Committees
 - Not to be Distributed Until Submitted to the Subcommittees
- Used by Committee Members During Hearings
- Must be Responsive...Current...Accurate

Justification Material – J-Sheets

- Used by HQ – ASA(CW) - Committee Members During Hearings
- Prepared by Districts
- Remaining Items Justifications Prepared by HQUSACE

Justification Material- Enacted Fact Sheets

- Justification Data

- Scope of Project Under Consideration
- Project Merits
- Costs, Including Changes
- Local Support and Recent Actions
- Progress or Slippage
- Problems and Expected Resolution
- Compliance with Committee Guidance

Justification Material (*continued*)

- Organized by Business Line (>Account, > MSC, >Project)
 - Studies and PED
 - Construction
 - O&M
 - Justification Paragraphs
 - Status Maps, Justification Sheets
 - Water Resource Regions
- Remaining Items
 - Programs and Activities Managed by HQUSACE
 - Organized by Appropriation Title
- Justification Materials Distributed to Appropriations Subcommittees and Others
 - One Complete Set for Each Member
 - Originals Provided for Printing of Hearing Records
 - Additional Copies available on CD and WWW

"Opening Day" Appropriations Hearings

Statements by:

- Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)
- Chief of Engineers

<http://www.usace.army.mil/cw/cecwb/index.html>

Concerned with Overview of Program

- Introduction of Overall Program
- Program Trends and Policy
- Major Changes from Prior Year
- Value of Current Program

Hearing Procedures and Transcripts

- Testifying Officer Submits Written Statement or Status Report
 - Statements by ASA(CW) and HQUSACE
 - Status Reports by Division Commanders
 - These Written Materials Orally Summarized for the Subcommittees
 - Question and Answer Session

Hearing Procedures and Transcripts (*continued*)

- Following Hearings, Subcommittees Furnish:
 - Copies of Transcripts for Review and Editing
 - Additional Questions for Response in Transcript
 - Questions for the Record submitted by members
- Responsibilities:
 - HQUSACE
 - Review and Edit HQUSACE Testimony
 - Respond to Questions for the Record

Public Works Hearings

- Both Senate and House Committees Hold Hearings on Two Types of Legislative Actions:
 - Overall Program and Trends (Appropriations)
 - Basis of Report and Recommendations to Budget Committees
 - Held House by Senate
 - On Water Resources Development Acts
- Witnesses are from HQUSACE
- Field Support Needed for Testimony, Including Committee Request for Inserts Into Record

Published Hearings Records

- All Testimony and Inserts for the Record
- These Hearing Records Include:
 - Corps Statement and Status Reports
 - Inserts for the Record
 - Justification Materials
 - Oral Testimony
 - Questions and Answers
- Used as Reference Documents

