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25 MARCH 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: EPA Regional Administrators
COE Division Engineers

SUBJECT: Corps of Engineers/Environmental Protection Agency Joint
Guidances for Cooperative Action for Water Quality Management

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide guidance describing ways in which the Corps of Engineers (COE) can participate, where appropriate, in State and areawide water quality planning and management programs authorized under Sections 208 and 303 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 (P. L. 92-500). The guidance is intended to assist in implementing the Corps of Engineers - Environmental Protection Agency Working Agreement which was negotiated in November 1974 and published in the Federal Register January 11, 1975. A copy of this agreement is attached as Inclosure 1. Paragraph 11 of the Coordinating Provisions of the Agreement states: "Upon request of the Governor(s), and upon agreement of the Federal Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, the Army Corps of Engineers may consult with and provide technical assistance on a reimbursable basis in developing State plans for areas not designated under Section 208(a)."

GOALS:

Corps of Engineers:

1. To provide, wherever possible, all relevant data, plans and descriptions of ongoing or developing programs that would be appropriate to State or areawide water quality planning and management programs.
2. To develop appropriate communications between Division and District Engineers and State and areawide water quality management agencies to assure that data and planning activities are not duplicated.
3. To coordinate Corps water resources and management planning activities with appropriate State and areawide water quality management agencies to assure concurrence of efforts and compatibility of objectives.
4. To establish, where required, water quality management programs which cover lands and facilities under the jurisdiction of the Corps of Engineers. The planning activity would be coordinated with the State water quality management agency.

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CURRENT ACTIVITIES:

There are several programs that the COE and EPA and/or State water quality management agency are engaged in requiring the development of appropriate coordinative and cooperative actions. These include Level B studies, 303(e) water quality basin planning activities, urban studies program activities, Section 201 planning grants for municipal waste treatment grants, 404 permit activities and Section 208 planning activities under the current designated 149 areawide agencies. The recently issued water quality management regulations (40 CFR Parts 130 and 131, November 28, 1975) require the initial State and areawide quality management programs be completed by November 1, 1978. In order to accomplish this task, it is essential that many Federal agencies provide assistance to areawide and State agencies in developing effective water quality management strategies.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Corps of Engineers:

The Corps Division Engineer should meet with the respective EPA Regional Administrator and discuss the availability of Corps resources for planning assistance. This meeting would inform the Regional Administrator of available resources prior to initial contact with the State Water Quality Management agency.

Environmental Protection Agency:

The EPA Regional Administrator, after determining the availability of Corps resources in his region, should contact the appropriate State water quality management agencies and advise them of the available Corps resources and inform the States as to which District or Division Engineer to contact for assistance. The Regional Administrator or his representative may also desire to participate in any subsequent negotiations between the State agency and the Corps of Engineers so as to assure maximum utilization of Corps services.