Federal Agency Roles and Responsibilities

Clean Water Act Section 404 Compensatory Mitigation Decisions





April 2011 Lexington, KY





Corps' Responsibilities

- Determining appropriate amount and type of compensatory mitigation
- Making public interest review decisions
- Conducting 404(b)(1) Guidelines analyses
- Approving mitigation plans
- Approval/disapproval of third-party mitigation instruments
- Oversight of third-party mitigation

EPA/FWS/NOAA Roles in Mitigation Decisions

- Comment on public notices
- Participate on IRTs
- Elevate issues regarding Bank/ILF proposals under DR process in rule
- Elevate issues under CWA 404(q) process
- [EPA only] Prohibit disposal sites (CWA §404(c))

1992 404(q) MOAs

- Corps responsibilities:
 - Acts as project manager in the evaluation of permit applications
 - Requesting and evaluating information concerning all permit applications
- Corps makes final determinations of:
 - Compliance with Corps regulations (e.g., public interest review)
 - Compliance with the 404(b)(1) Guidelines

EPA/FWS/NOAA Section 404(q)1992 MOAs

- Candidates for individual case elevation must meet 2 criteria for initiation of 404(q) elevation procedures
 - The project must involve an Aquatic Resource of National Importance (ARNI)
 - The project must result in (or have the potential to result in) substantial and unacceptable adverse impacts on an ARNI (after considering mitigation)

Interagency Review Teams

- Agency participation
 - Corps
 - U.S. EPA
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - NOAA Fisheries
 - Natural Resources Conservation Service
 - Other Federal agencies
 - Tribal, state, and local regulatory and resource agencies

Interagency Review Teams

- Purpose: review documentation for establishment and management of Mitigation Bank and In-Lieu Fee program
 - prospectus, instruments, mitigation plans, monitoring reports, credit release requests, instrument/plan modifications
- Chair: Corps
- If third-party mitigation is used to satisfy another federal, tribal, state, or local program, that agency may serve as co-chair
- District Engineer will seek to resolve issues via consensus based approach, while meeting the decisionmaking time frames in the Rule
 - Also, formal dispute resolution process in rule

IRT Training Course

http://www.conservationfund.org/irt_mitigation_training

