



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**PACIFIC OCEAN DIVISION, CORPS OF ENGINEERS**  
**FORT SHAFTER, HAWAII 96858-5440**

CEPOD-PDC

23 August 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDER, ALASKA ENGINEER DISTRICT, ATTN:  
CEPOA-EN-CW-PF

SUBJECT: Review Plan Approval for the Streambank Stabilization Study, McGrath,  
Alaska

1. The enclosed Review Plan for the Streambank Stabilization Study, McGrath, Alaska has been prepared in accordance with EC 1105-2-408 and the Director of Civil Works' "Peer Review Process" memorandum dated March 30, 2007.
2. The Review Plan is available for public comment, and the comments received will be incorporated into the Review Plan as appropriate. The Review Plan will be coordinated with the Flood Risk Management Planning Center of Expertise of the South Pacific Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which is the lead office to execute this Review Plan. The Review Plan does not include external peer review because the scope and technical complexity of the feasibility report and Environmental Assessment are not expected to be novel, controversial or precedent setting.
3. 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 Review Plan or its execution will require new written approval from this office.
4. The point of contact for this Review Plan can be reached at (907) 753-5680.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

Encl

  
WENDELL S. AWADA, P.E.  
Acting Director of Programs

**FEASIBILITY STUDY PEER REVIEW PLAN**  
**Streambank Stabilization Study**  
**McGrath, Alaska**  
**PWI: 081415**

*The information contained in this quality control and peer review plan is distributed solely for the purpose of pre-dissemination peer review under applicable information quality guidelines. It has not been formally disseminated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District. It does not represent and should not be construed to represent any agency determination or policy.*

1. The Alaska District, Corps of Engineers (COE) is conducting a fully Federal funded feasibility study at McGrath, Alaska. Decision documents generated by this feasibility study will undergo independent technical review in accordance with EC1105-2-408, Peer Review of Decision Documents. The feasibility study will evaluate streambank erosion alternatives. The project may have a collaborative component with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) which is pursuing stabilizing a portion of the threatened area under their Emergency Watershed Program. If feasible, the Corps of Engineers project for streambank stabilization will be integrated with the NRCS stabilization project. The intent is to use features of both projects to complement each other and reduce construction costs in a recommended plan. The project development team (PDT) for this study consists of Alaska District personnel representing the following disciplines/positions. Other disciplines will be included as needed.

<b>Project Delivery Team (PDT)</b>
Project Manager
Project Formulator
Hydraulic Engineer
Economist
Biologist
Archaeologist
Cost Engineer
Geotechnical Engineer
Biologist

The point of contact for this review plan is the Project Manager who can be reached at 907-753-5680.

2. The scope and technical complexity for this study and feasibility report is not expected to be novel, controversial, or precedent setting. Therefore external peer review (EPR) by organizations and personnel not affiliated with the Corps of Engineers, such as academia, will not be performed for this study.

The study will utilize the engineering model HEC-RAS to predict the magnitude of flooding that may occur in the project area. HEC-RAS is a model in common use, which the study team will adapt for use for the conditions specific to McGrath. There is no current requirement for the certification of engineering models. Other analytical tools, such as spreadsheets developed for computation of the project benefits and damages will also be utilized but do not require certification. The use and application of these tools for this project are subject to independent technical review.

3. Review will consist of independent technical review (ITR) by personnel within the Corps of Engineers. Technical reviewers will be personnel at journeyman or senior levels with experience in Corps of Engineers civil works studies. These reviewers will not be involved in the day to day decisions and development of study work products. Where possible the ITR personnel will be selected from outside Alaska District. Personnel from the South Pacific Division, the Planning Center of Expertise (PCX) for flood risk management studies, will serve as the ITR team leader. The ITR Team will be made up of people with experience in the major disciplines and include representatives of the local sponsor. The ITR team leader will be responsible for selecting ITR personnel. The team's purpose is to provide a technical review of all elements of the feasibility study and to insure planning, analysis, and design conform to applicable USACE standards, policy, and guidance. The following disciplines are anticipated for the ITR team:

- Project Formulator
- Hydraulic Engineer
- Economist
- Biologist
- Archaeologist
- Cost Engineer
- Geotechnical Engineer

The ITR team will review Feasibility Scoping Meeting (FSM) and Alternative Formulation Briefing (AFB) documents and draft feasibility report/Environmental Assessment (EA) before submittal to Pacific Ocean Division for approval and processing to USACE higher authority. The team will review the final Feasibility Report/EA before it is submitted to Pacific Ocean Division for approval and processing to USACE higher authority only if there are significant changes in the report as a result of public reviews.

4. ITR will be conducted on the COE portions of the project. The NRCS portions of a combined project will not undergo COE ITR procedures. NRCS will be responsible for the technical adequacy of their project.

5. The anticipated schedule for ITR review is:

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|--|-------------|
| Feasibility Scoping Meeting documents            | Winter 2008 |
| Alternative Formulation Briefing (AFB) documents | Fall 2008   |
| Draft Feasibility Report and EA                  | Summer 2009 |

6. The public will have opportunities to review the study and will be notified of availability of draft documents and public meetings in accordance with NEPA procedures. Public meetings will be held in McGrath. The ITR team will generally not receive public comments as public comments are used to develop the documents the ITR team reviews.