EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: / /

EDO CONTROL: G20000286
DOC DT: 06/01/00
FINAL REPLY:

Hans A. Van Winkle
Department of the Army

TO:

Chairman

FOR SIGNATURE OF : ** GRN ** CRC NO: 00-0372

DESC:

Future Water Resources Challenges Facing the Nation

ROUTING:

Travers
Paperiello
Miraglia
Norry
Craig
Burns/Cyr
Springer, ADM

DATE: 06/09/00

ASSIGNED TO: CONTACT:

NMSS Kane

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

For appropriate action.

Template Secy-017

E-RIDS Secy-01

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

Date Printed: Jun 08, 2000 14:43

PAPER NUMBER:	LTR-00-0372	**LOGGING DATE:**	06/08/2000
ACTION OFFICE:	EDO		
AUTHOR:	HANS VAN WINKLE		
AFFILIATION:	DOD		
ADDRESSEE:			
SUBJECT:	U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS DIALOGUE WHICH ENTAILS LISTENING SESSIONS ABOUT FUTURE WATER RESOURCES CHALLENGES		
ACTION:	Appropriate		
DISTRIBUTION:	CHAIRMAN, COMRS		
LETTER DATE:	06/01/2000		
ACKNOWLEDGED	No		
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NOTES:			
FILE LOCATION:	ADAMS		
DATE DUE:		**DATE SIGNED:**	

7018

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

2000 JUN -6 PM 2:53

1 JUN 2000

Honorable Greta Joy Dicus
Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
One White Flint North Building
11555 Rockville Pike
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Madam Chairman:

As part of our strategic planning process, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is initiating a dialogue with its stakeholders, the general public, and with Federal, State, and local agencies about future water resources challenges facing the Nation. The dialogue will entail a series of 14 regional listening sessions to be conducted during the June - September, 2000 timeframe. Enclosed are a schedule and a brochure describing the listening sessions. Our goal is to have these sessions reach a broad spectrum of interests in order to better define water resources challenges and accurately define national requirements. I invite you personally to attend any or all of these sessions and encourage you to send representatives from your agency to attend any of the regional sessions.

Results from each listening session will be compiled into a report and shared with interested agencies and parties. I request that you provide a point-of-contact with whom my staff may coordinate to provide further information concerning the listening sessions. Please provide point-of-contact information to Mr. Dave Kenyon, Chief of the Corps Civil Works Program Formulation Branch at (202) 761-8575 or E-mail: david.c.kenyon@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

Hans A. Van Winkle
Major General, U.S. Army
Deputy Commander for
Civil Works

Enclosures

Listening Sessions

Proposed Locations, Dates, and Point of Contact

16 June	St. Louis, MO
20 June	Sacramento, CA
22 June	Phoenix, AZ
11 July	Waltham, MA
12 July	Atlanta, GA
18 July	Omaha, NE
27 July	Honolulu, HI
2 Aug	Chicago, IL
7 Aug	Louisville, KY
10 Aug	Dallas, TX
14 Aug	Richmond, VA
17 Aug	New Brunswick, NJ
15 Sep	Anchorage, AK
19 Sep	Vancouver, WA

For schedule updates and registration, please visit our website:

www.wrsc.usace.army.mil/iwr/waterchallenges

or call (toll free) 877-447-6342 or (703) 428-8535 (local Northern Virginia).

For specific questions, please contact: Mark Gmitro at (703) 428-7214 (Institute for Water Resources)

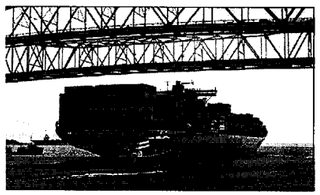
Enclosure 1

JOIN THE DIALOGUE

Water plays a major role in how we live and work. But are we taking this critical resource for granted?

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – steward of America's water resources for more than 200 years – wants to begin the dialogue about the challenges that lie ahead . . .

Our nation's water highway system may not be able to meet 21st century demands.



Many of America's ports are too shallow and narrow to accommodate today's mega-containerships, reducing the country's competitiveness in the global economy.

Every year, America's marine transportation system moves $1 trillion of domestic and international freight, including more than 60 percent of the nation's grain exports and 80 percent of soybean exports. It supports commercial and recreational fishing industries that contribute $111 billion to state economies and jobs for 13 million people – all while reducing pollution and congestion on roads and railways.

But tonnage passing through harbors is expected to double in the next 20 years, and much of our system is already working at near capacity. Without deeper ports to accommodate today's mega-containerships and modernized locks to ensure smooth operations, our nation will endure numerous consequences:

- increased costs to U.S. consumers of imports like clothing, electronics and oil,
- decreased competitiveness and loss of jobs in farming, mining and shipping,
- loss of export markets, which in turn will impact the balance of trade and global competitiveness, and
- reduced ability to deploy and resupply military forces.

Flooding continues to threaten our nation's communities.

Floods killed more than 200 Americans between 1990 and 1995 and cost citizens $4 billion annually.

America has made a major investment in flood damage reduction. Nearly 400 lakes and reservoirs, 8,500 miles of levees and dikes, and hundreds of smaller local flood protection projects have prevented close to $500 billion in flood damages since 1950. Every $1 invested in flood damage reduction projects prevents almost $6 in damages.

But our nation still spends an average of $4 billion per year on flood damages. Flooding – the most common and costly natural disaster in America – is worsening as development continues in flood-prone areas and along coastlines. Yet today, less than 15 percent of the nation's more than 20,000 communities have structural flood protection, and less than 30 percent of at-risk buildings are covered by national flood insurance.

Just how big is the problem? We don't know! The last time national flood risks were assessed was 1978. But we do know that the devastation to a single community, such as Princeville, N.C., after Hurricane Floyd, leaves lifelong human, financial and social scars.

The time to repair our damaged environment is now.

America has lost more than 100 million acres of wetlands – an area larger than the state of California

Until the passage of the National Environmental Policy Act in 1970, economic development took precedence over environmental considerations. Forests, grasslands, wetlands, and river systems were destroyed. While water resources projects built today include environmental protection within their scope, the environment is still suffering from past actions. Much needs to be done to clean up, restore and improve the environment.

More than half of America's wetlands – among the world's most productive ecosystems – have been lost since Colonial times. Hundreds of plants and animals have become extinct or endangered. The effect on humans is profound. In addition to serving as spawning grounds for numerous species, wetlands help reduce flood damage, protect shorelines from erosion, and improve water quality.

Businesses dependent on fishing, recreation and tourism need a healthy environment to prosper. Also, 25 percent of new medicines require information we gather from the environment.

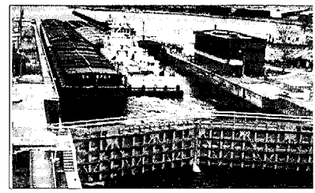
Many communities lack adequate water and sewer systems necessary for growth.

Flight to the suburbs has left behind scarred city neighborhoods with crumbling infrastructure and abandoned industrial sites known as "brownfields." Many cities don't have funds to upgrade water distribution systems. Redevelopment – which could provide needed revenues – is impossible without modernized infrastructure. Cities also lack the money to clean brownfields; and contaminated run-off from these past industrial developments threatens local water supplies.

Upgrading the nation's aging water infrastructure to accommodate the population of 2020 will cost $325 billion.

An adequate supply of clean water is a problem for communities across the country. Poor rural areas can't afford to upgrade their water infrastructure to attract needed development. Many urban areas, particularly in the West, Southwest and Southeast, may face future chronic water shortages and drought vulnerability.

America's water resources infrastructure may not support future generations.



Lock delays associated with aged facilities cost $385 million a year. Shippers, carriers and, ultimately, consumers bear these costs.

Water infrastructure – water supply and treatment systems, flood protection works, water transportation systems, hydropower facilities, and water recreation sites – contributes to our quality of life and national prosperity.

Unfortunately, the national investment in water resources has not kept pace with economic and social expansion. Public infrastructure (including water resources infrastructure) investments in 1960 amounted to 3.9 percent of the Gross Domestic Product. Today, the figure is more like 2.6 percent. At current investment rates, our water resources infrastructure will be unable to support the greater demands of a rapidly expanding population and economy.

Our nation's capability to respond to natural disasters is being stretched.

Hurricane damages have risen exponentially in recent decades because of rapid development along our coastlines. More people and property than ever before are at risk.

Natural disasters and other national emergencies are expensive and destructive, costing people their lives, homes, livelihoods and sense of well-being. Natural disasters cost the nation a staggering $300 million a week in economic losses. There are also indirect costs: business shut-downs, loss of income and tax revenue, transportation delays, illness, and impacts on other government programs from diversion of tax dollars to disaster response, relief and recovery.

The frequency and severity of natural disasters require a rapid and effective emergency management response. There is no room for delay or error in giving people back their lives.

IF WE WANT . . .

- a strong marine transportation system that can accommodate increased demands,
- to reduce flooding impacts on people, property and livelihoods,
- a healthy natural environment for the benefit of humans, plants and animals,
- sufficient clean water in our communities,
- water infrastructure that performs to expectations,

and

- quick and effective emergency response to natural disasters,

then let's begin a dialogue to define needs and find solutions.

JOIN THE DIALOGUE

Join the Dialogue

web: ***www.wrsc.usace.army.mil/iwr/waterchallenges***

Phone: *Toll Free* ***(877) 447-6342***
Local Northern VA ***(703) 428-8535***

US Army Corps of Engineers®

Spring 2000

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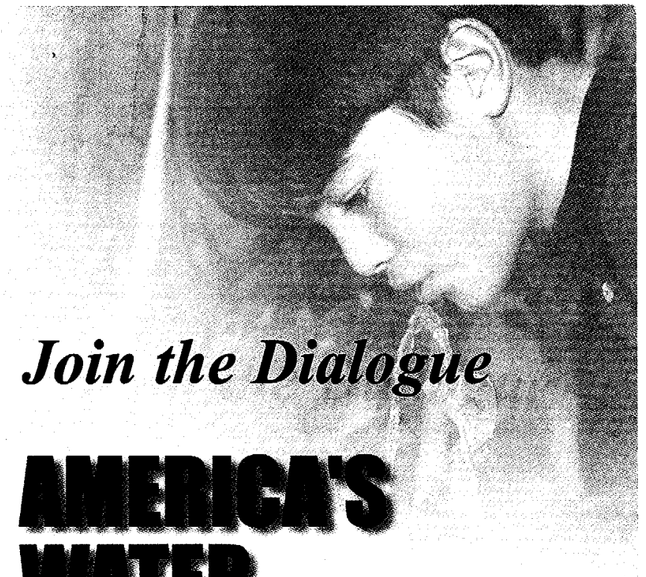

Join the Dialogue

AMERICA'S WATER RESOURCES CHALLENGES FOR THE 21st CENTURY