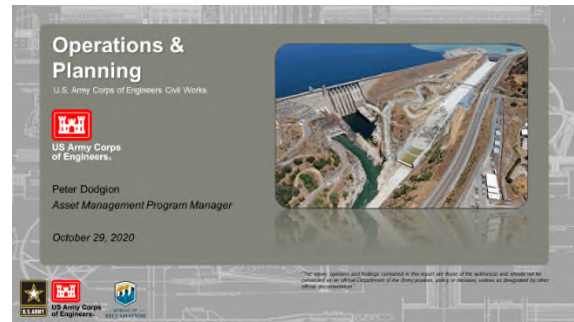


Engaging Operations During Feasibility

October 29, 2020

Q&A Session

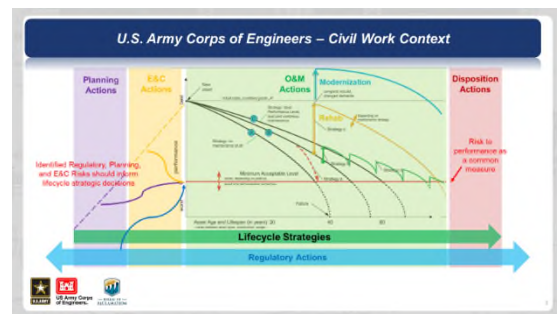
This webinar focused on the benefits for planners of engaging with Operations personnel during the feasibility phase. During the feasibility phase of a Civil Works project, study teams often identify a number of benefit streams. Planners can benefit from ground-truthing their benefit concepts with professionals who are actively delivering project benefits in real-time: USACE Civil Works Operation Managers and other Operations professionals. Improved interaction and recognition of Operations Division professionals in the feasibility phase can lead to more practical outcomes, a better understanding of the project turnover phase, and life-cycle cost exposure for non-federal sponsors. This webinar was presented by Peter Dodgion, HQUSACE Asset Management Program Manager.



This summary of the Question / Answer session of the webinar is not a transcription; questions and responses have been edited and reordered for clarity.

The example set of curves shown in the graphic on Slide 2 look like they apply to a structural project. How might they differ for a non-structural coastal storm risk management project, such as a beach and dune system?

Slide 2 represents the life-cycle of a physical facility (e.g., dam or inland lock) as opposed to a nonstructural project such as beach renourishment. For a physical facility, the primary goal would be to accomplish the project's benefit streams while managing significant O&M actions throughout the project's lifecycle. For a nonstructural project, each set of actions would be scaled differently: Planning Actions, E&C Actions, and O&M Actions. However, the general lifecycle strategies concept from the graphic should be applicable to any type of project.



What does the “minimum acceptable level” line in the graphic on Slide 2 represent?

The minimum acceptable level line in the graphic is intended to conceptually represent a performance metric; the line shows the point at which the project does not perform acceptably, which will differ from project to project depending on the business line. For any project, the line may be “in the eyes of the beholder” – for example a navigation project that is periodically closed for maintenance may be providing a level of service that is “above the line” for USACE but “below the line” for navigation interests.

Are there any recent examples of projects that describe Operation and Maintenance, Repair, Replacement and Rehabilitation (OMRR&R) requirements in a way that might be helpful for planners?

The Chief of Engineers recently signed [the Chief's Report for the Louisville Metro Flood Protection System Reconstruction Study](#), which provides a good example of documenting OMRR&R requirements and actions over time related to federal reinvestment in a major flood system to extend the life of the

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project. USACE will ensure that the non-federal sponsor, who has partnered with USACE on this project for decades, has the operations information needed to maintain the system moving forward.

This project – and others like it – are informed by the 2005 Director of Civil Works memo, [Reconstruction of USACE Structural Flood Damage Reduction Projects for which Non-Federal Interests are Responsible for OMRR&R](#). This memo provides guidance on analyzing older systems that may need to be rehabilitated and recapitalized, to ensure the project does not need rehabilitation due to deferred operations and maintenance activities by the project sponsor.

Is there any guidance available to assist planners on when it is appropriate to consider deauthorization of existing projects (i.e., disposition actions) as opposed to continued maintenance, repair, and replacement activities?

The Director of Civil Works issued [Interim Guidance on the Conduct of Disposition Studies](#) in 2016, which is the most recent guidance for planners on deauthorization of existing projects. Disposition studies may be prioritized for consideration based on requests from Congress, the non-federal sponsor, or USACE. For example, Section 6002 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) of 2014 required the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works to assess all properties under the control of USACE and to provide an inventory of all properties not needed for the USACE mission.