

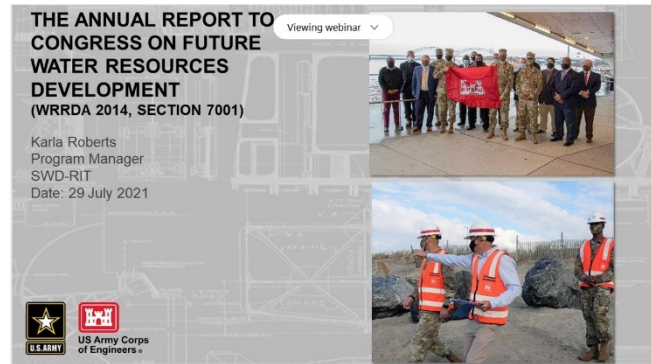
Annual Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development (Section 7001)

29 July 2021

Q&A Session

This webinar provided an overview of the annual Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development, also known as the 7001 Report.

The presentation covered requirements established in Section 7001 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014, as amended, with an emphasis on the proposal evaluation process. Presenter Karla Roberts (Southwestern Division Regional Integration Team) discussed the annual process in detail, including the acceptance of non-federal proposals, District, Division, and Headquarters' evaluation of proposals, and development of the Report to Congress. The deadline for submission of 2021 proposals is 30 August.



For more information on the 7001 report and resources including frequently asked questions and prior year submissions, visit the [USACE Headquarters Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development website](#). In addition, District planners can access proposals from prior years on the [USACE 7001 SharePoint site](#).

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

Past 7001 Reports

Has the 2021 Annual Report to Congress been transmitted to Congress yet?

It is anticipated that the 2021 Report to Congress will be released soon. Once published, the report will be made available, along with all previous reports, [on the USACE Headquarters website](#).

Non-federal Sponsor 7001 Proposals

Are there any references or guidance available for non-federal sponsors preparing a 7001 proposal?

Non-federal sponsors should be able to find needed information and answers to frequently asked questions on the [Headquarters Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development website](#). Non-federal sponsors with specific questions can also email wrrda7001proposal@usace.army.mil or speak with their respective District. Additionally, non-federal sponsors can [review submissions from prior years](#).

Section 203 submissions, which are studies conducted by non-federal sponsors, are submitted directly to the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works. Sponsors working on such studies should reference [Engineer Regulation 1165-2-209: Studies of Water Resources Development Projects by Non-Federal Interests](#).

Can a non-federal sponsor include qualitative benefits from all of the benefit categories, such as life safety, in its proposal?

A non-federal sponsor can include qualitative benefits in its proposal. Please note that the benefits and costs of the study / project submitted as part of the proposal are neither evaluated nor verified during the proposal evaluation process. That information is only passed on to Congress in the report as it was submitted.

Do non-federal sponsors who may be able to obtain expert advice (i.e., through consultants) as they draft their 7001 proposals have an advantage over non-federal entities with fewer resources who may not be able to afford to bring in outside expertise?

Sophisticated proposals or outside consultants are not necessary for the completion or strength of a 7001 proposal. Proposals are only evaluated against the five criteria to qualify for addition to the Report to Congress: Does the proposal fit in a USACE mission area? Does it need an authority? Does it have a preexisting authority? Has it been in a previous report? And, could USACE implement the proposed study/project?

If the non-federal sponsor is unsure if an authority is needed to conduct a study, they are invited to work with their local District to determine the answer before submitting a proposal. Note: some non-federal sponsors will choose to submit a proposal for a study/project with existing authority that they know will be placed in the appendix to raise visibility or demonstrate interest in and commitment to a specific study/project.

For new proposal categories, such as Environmental Infrastructure, how can smaller non-federal entities or those with fewer resources ensure their proposal makes a successful case for meeting the criteria for the Report, particularly if they are unlikely to know they can request USACE support?

Outreach to non-federal sponsors and potential non-federal sponsors to inform them about the annual proposal process for this Report should be part of the District's standard talking points when engaging with communities. If there is a potential need for a USACE water resources study, project, or technical assistance, and authority is needed, Districts should always communicate that inclusion in the annual Report to Congress for Future Water Resources Development is one path to alerting Congress of the need for authorization or modification of an existing authorization.

WRDA 2020 Pilot Studies

How do pilot studies authorized by WRDA 2020 fit into the 7001 Report process? *(Note: WRDA 2020 authorized a pilot program that allows USACE to conduct 10 projects with federal costs of \$10 million or less for small and disadvantaged communities.)*

The 7001 Report process is intended for proposed studies that need a new authority or require a change to an existing authority. The WRDA 2020 pilots would therefore not need to submit proposals via the 7001 process, unless no study authority is already in place. *Note: Implementation Guidance for Section 118 has not yet been published. At this time, it is unclear if Section 118 provides study authority for the selected pilots, or if the selected pilots must have existing authority (specifically authorized, Continuing Authorities Program, Tribal Partnership Program, etc.). Interested non-federal sponsors that need may need study authority have nothing to lose by submitting a proposal via the 7001 process. When published, the implementation guidance will be available on the [HQUSACE website](#).*

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In addition, it should be noted that the 7001 Report to Congress is only one route to obtaining study authority; Congress can establish new specific authorities without a proposal having been submitted through this process.

Stakeholder Communication

Is there an example email package or template that is available to share with stakeholders regarding the 7001 process?

There is no formal email package; however publicly-available information from the Headquarters 7001 website, including the [7001 fact sheet](#) and information about public information sessions, can be shared with stakeholders.