

INDEPENDENT EXTERNAL PEER REVIEW (IEPR)

DETAILED PROCESS BRIEFING FOR SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY TEAMS

Presented by Representatives of the PCX Guild:

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21 April 2022

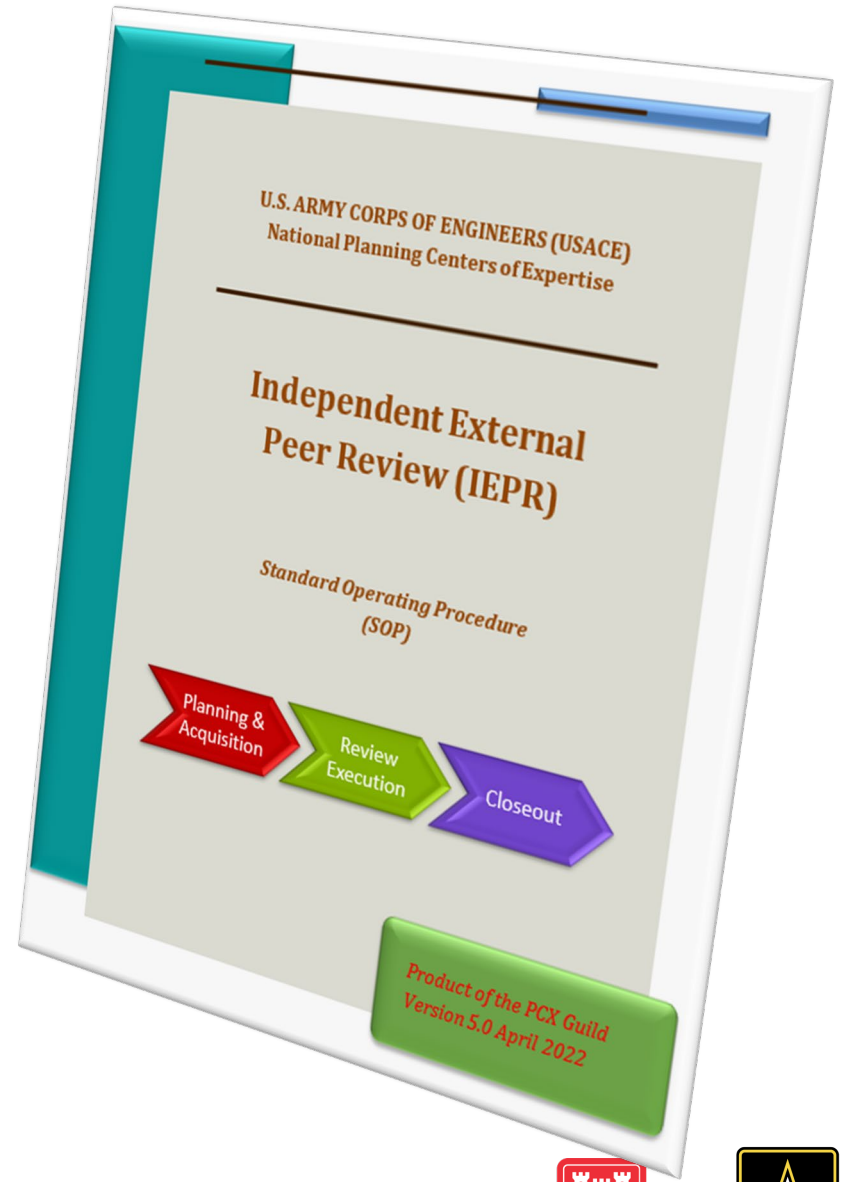


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BOTTOM LINE UP FRONT

- Recent guidance changed some of the IEPR processes
- 2019 IEPR SOP has been updated to reflect current guidance and policies
- Presentation will highlight noteworthy IEPR concepts for supplemental study teams
 - IEPR planning starts NOW!
 - Multiple levels of coordination
 - Legal requirement



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WEBINAR AGENDA

- Recent References
- IEPR Streamlining Guidance
- SMART Planning & IEPR Timeline
- IEPR SOP
- IEPR Timeline
- IEPR Expenses
- Critical Aspects
- PDT Responses
- Agency Response
- Tool Box
- Contacts
- Questions



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RECENT REFERENCES

- 2021-09-07: National Academy of Science - Policy and Procedures on Committee Composition and Balance and Conflicts of Interest for Committees Used in the Development of Reports
- 2021-05-01: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Engineer Circular: ER 1165-2-217 (Civil Works Review Policy)
- 2018-10-23: America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 - Section 1141: Project studies subject to independent peer review
- 2014-06-10: Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) of 2014 - Section 1044: Independent Peer Review
- 2007-11-08: Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2007:
 - Section 2034: Independent Peer Review
 - Section 7009: Independent Review (for the Louisiana Water Resources Council)
- 2004-12-16: Office of Management and Budget - Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review



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IEPR MANDATORY TRIGGERS

- Mandatory Triggers*:
 - Estimated total cost of the project, including mitigation, is greater than \$200 million**
 - When the Governor of an affected state requests a peer review by independent experts
 - When the Chief of Engineers determines the study is controversial

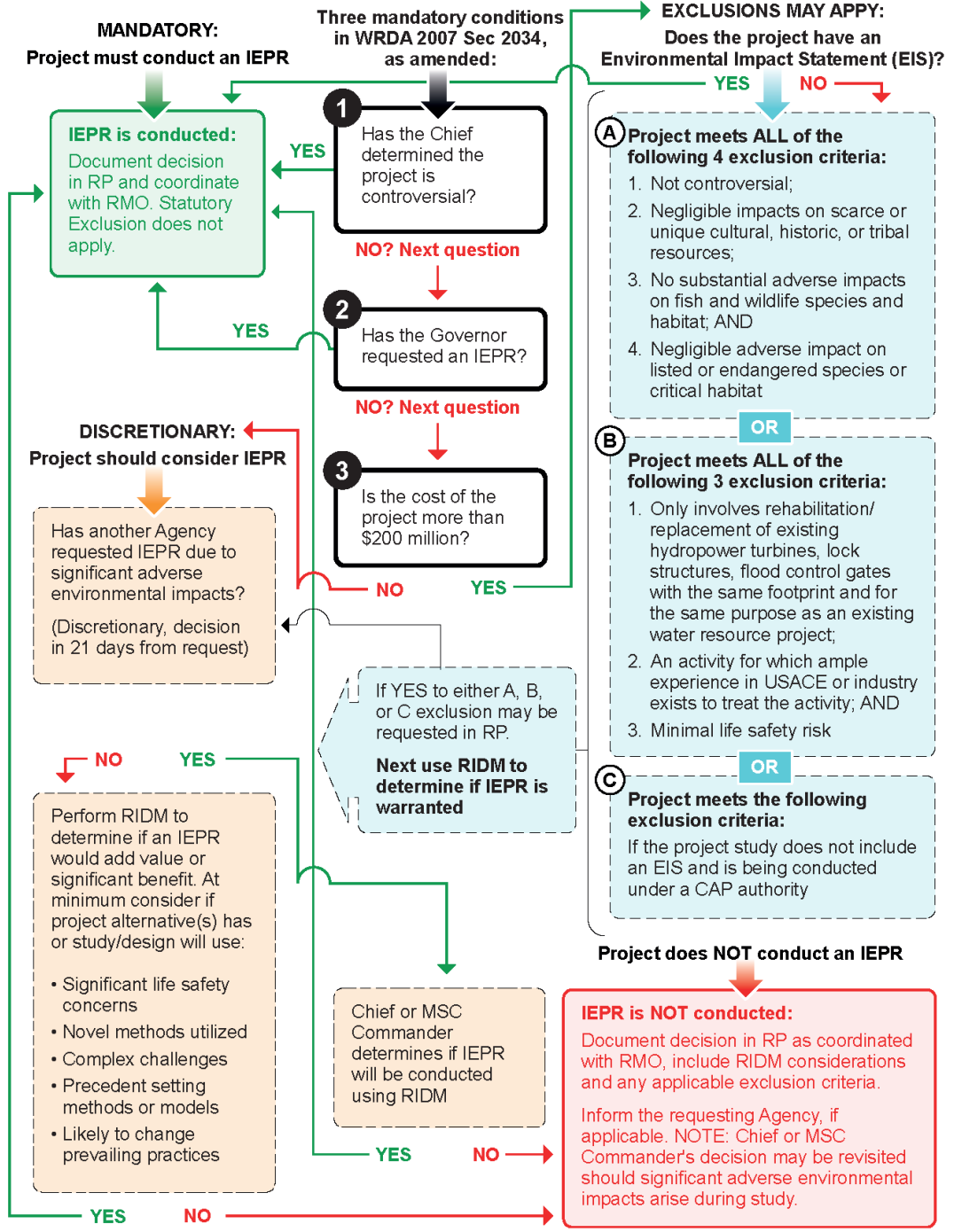
** When no mandatory triggers are met, IEPR may still be conducted based on a risk-informed assessment*

*** An exclusion from IEPR can still be granted if the \$200 million trigger is met*



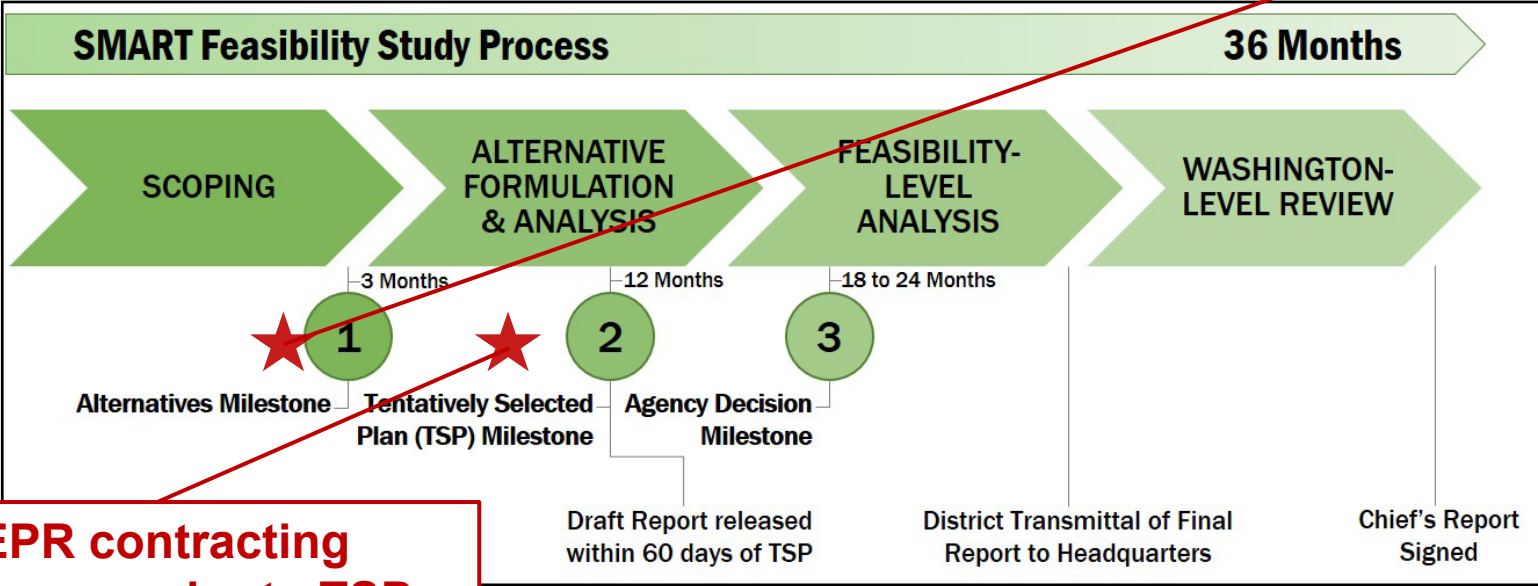
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SMART PLANNING & IEPR TIMELINE

...but IEPR planning starts here.



IEPR contracting underway prior to TSP

Active IEPR Timeline



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IEPR SOP

- The SOP is the 'go-to' guide for all things IEPR!
- Step-by-step instructions
- Costs, timelines, and responsible parties



EXAMPLE 3. Adopt It!

Recommendations are often not adopted when they can and should be adopted. A comment can be adopted even if USACE does not agree with all the review states. Action can be taken to satisfy the reviewer and tell a better story just by modifying the report. If the reviewer makes a comment, it may be because they do not understand the material, method, or approach.

Recommendation: Adjust the Total Project Cost for the Sacramento District's recommended contingency rate and change the project reports to eliminate any ambiguity.

Final

USACE Response: Adopted.

Action Taken: The Final General Reevaluation Report has been modified to eliminate ambiguity regarding the recommended contingency rate. No change to the Total Project Cost was required.

- ✓ Changed Not Adopt to Adopt
- ✓ Take credit for what has been done (modified to eliminate ambiguity)
- ✓ Don't have to agree with everything the reviewer states

Task No.	Task Description	Duration (work days)	Effort** (hours)	Cost*** (dollars)	Lead
(2)	(Complete Tasks 1 and 2. If the PDT recommends excluding Type I IEPR from the study, complete the following tasks. IMPORTANT! See Appendix C for details of exclusion process, Tasks EXC a – EXC h.)				
EXC a	Draft RP submitted to PCX				
EXC b	PCX Reviews Exclusion Request, Consults with District				
EXC c	Revisions to RP/Exclusion Request (if needed)				
EXC d	PCX Endorses RP and Exclusion Request				
EXC e	District Submits Exclusion Request	1	2	\$200	District
EXC f	MSC Approves Recommendation and Transmits Exclusion to HQ	10	50	\$5,000	PCX
EXC g	RIT Processing of Memorandum for Record (MFR)	5	20	\$2,000	District
EXC h	Notify Congress and Public of IEPR Exclusion Approval	5	10	\$1,000	PCX
		15	10	\$1,000	District
		10	0	—	DST
		10	0	—	RIT
		10	0	—	RIT
TYPE I IEPR EXCLUSION TOTAL		61	92	\$9,200	

May be Non-Continuous **Effort by Corps personnel ***Cost to Project

IEPR TIMELINE

1 day

- Project Development Team (PDT) contacts appropriate RMO (MSC, PCX, or RMC) to request IEPR support. RMO assigns a Lead.

4 wks

- PCX IEPR Lead develops the IEPR performance work statement (PWS), independent government estimate (IGE), and charge questions; requests funding and submits to IWR.

10 wks

- IWR awards IEPR contract to Outside Eligible Organization (OEO) & issues Notice to Proceed (NTP).

6 wks

- OEO identifies panel members and completes panel member subcontracts.

15 wks

- OEO completes IEPR Final Report documenting the final Panel comments.

8 wks

- PDT develops responses to the IEPR Panel comments with OEO and Panel. OEO finalizes the Comment/Response Record.

Varies

- PDT prepares the written proposed USACE response to IEPR comments for processing through the appropriate Regional Integration Team (RIT).

44 wks

- Total timeline minimum excluding Agency Response development/processing.



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ASSUMPTIONS: TSP MILESTONE DATE 15 NOV 2023 DRAFT REPORT RELEASE 12 JAN 2024

- Reach out to the PCX to request an IEPR
- PCX IEPR Lead assigned **NLT 14 Aug 2023**
- PDT should be thinking about:
 - Overall IEPR schedule in P2
 - Cost/labor resourcing:
 - PCX IEPR Lead
 - Institute for Water Resources (IWR)
 - Contracting Officer Representative (COR)
 - Subject Matter Expert (SME) – situational
 - Contract Cost
 - PDT (cost to develop comment-responses, etc.)
 - Content and structure of the feasibility study documents



IEPR CONTRACT CONSIDERATIONS

- Not to Exceed \$500,000
- Contracts range from \$90,000-\$200,000
 - Including contingency/options/mods
- Not included in the \$3M under SMART Planning
- Studies exceeding \$3M due to contract costs do not need an exemption from the DCG



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IEPR EXPENSES BREAKDOWN

Full Federal Costs

- Contract Costs: \$90,000-\$200,000

Cost-Shared Expenses

- PCX IEPR Lead: ~\$22,000
 - IWR: ~\$1,500
 - COR: ~\$4,000
 - SME: ~\$4,000
 - Total: ~\$31,500
-
- PDT Costs: varies but important for study budgeting purposes (meetings, comment-responses, etc.)

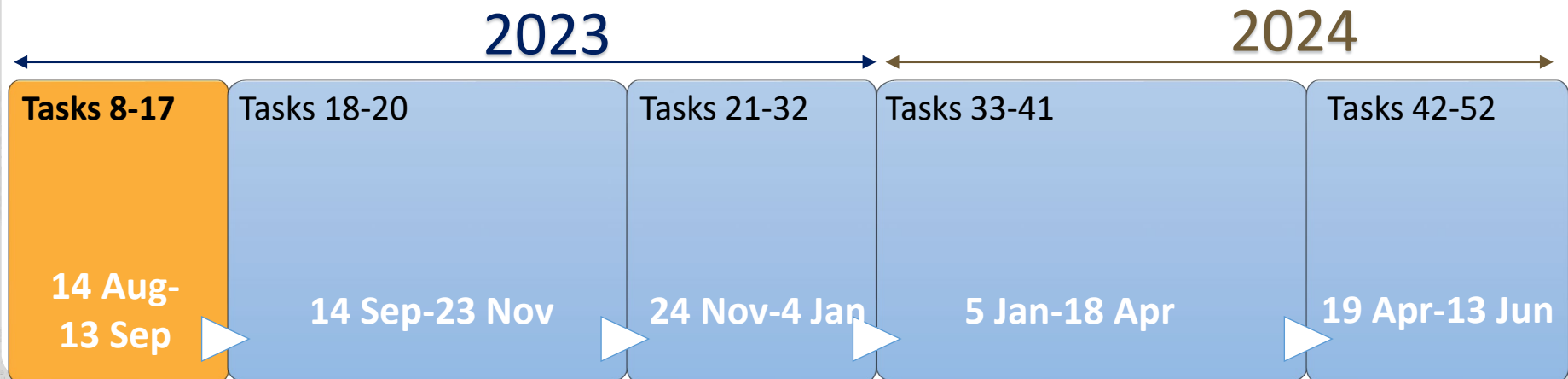


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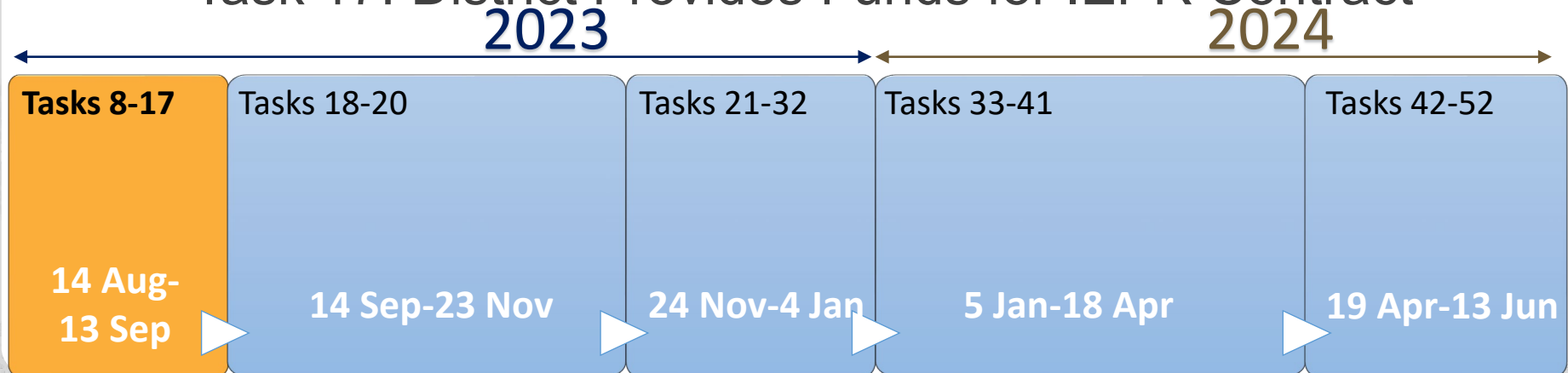
14 AUG – 13 SEP: DEVELOP PWS/IGE/CHARGE

- During this time the PDT Lead and PCX IEPR Lead are coordinating on development of the Performance Work Statement (PWS) and Charge. These documents form the basis of the scope that the Outside Eligible Organization (OEO) will bid on. The PCX IEPR Lead will also develop an Independent Government Estimate (IGE).



CORRESPONDING SOP TASKS

- Tasks 8-17
- Highlights:
 - Task 8: District Notifies PCX of IEPR Need
 - Task 9: PCX Assigns a PCX IEPR Lead
 - Task 12: District Provides Information about Draft Review Documents to PCX IEPR Lead
 - Task 16: PCX IEPR Lead Finalizes PWS, Review Charge, and IGE
 - Task 17: District Provides Funds for IEPR Contract



DOCUMENTS DEVELOPED

IGE

r Categories	Subtask 1		Subtask 2		Subtask 3		Subtask 4		Subtask 5		Subtask 6		Response	Total Base	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Total Labor	Labor Rate	Cost Base	Cost Option 1	Cost Option 2	Cost Option 3	Grand Tot	
	Work Plan	Experts	Meetings	Review	Report	Response	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3																
Peer Reviewer: Civil Works Planner/Economist	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	7	11.0	6	10	5	83.0	\$ 210.00	\$ 2,940	\$ 5,040	\$ 8,400	\$ 1,050	\$ 17.4
Peer Reviewer: Hydraulic Engineer	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	7	11.0	6	10	5	80.0	\$ 210.00	\$ 2,310	\$ 5,040	\$ 8,400	\$ 1,050	\$ 16.8
Peer Reviewer: Biological Ecologist	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	7	11.0	6	10	5	80.0	\$ 210.00	\$ 2,310	\$ 5,040	\$ 8,400	\$ 1,050	\$ 16.8
Peer Reviewer: Coastal Engineer	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	7	11.0	6	10	5	80.0	\$ 210.00	\$ 2,310	\$ 5,040	\$ 8,400	\$ 1,050	\$ 16.8
Peer Reviewer: Geotechnical Engineer	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	7	11.0	6	10	5	80.0	\$ 210.00	\$ 2,310	\$ 5,040	\$ 8,400	\$ 1,050	\$ 16.8
Peer Reviewer: Structural Engineer	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	7	11.0	6	10	5	80.0	\$ 210.00	\$ 2,310	\$ 5,040	\$ 8,400	\$ 1,050	\$ 16.8
Peer Reviewer	9	0	0	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	42	99.0	36	60	30	493.0	\$ 210.00	\$ 2,310	\$ 5,040	\$ 8,400	\$ 1,050	\$ 16.8
Principal Investigator	3	2	5	12	4	7	33.0	0	0	4	37.0	170.00	\$ 5,610	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 680	\$ 6.2							
Research Assistant	10	8	6	17	17	15	73.0	5	5	13	126.0	\$ 158.00	\$ 11,534	\$ 790	\$ 790	\$ 1,538	\$ 14.7								
Writer/Editor	15	24	6	12	12	5	84.0	5	5	20	144.0	\$ 108.00	\$ 9,072	\$ 540	\$ 540	\$ 2,880	\$ 13.0								
Administrative/Clerical	1	1	0	8	6	2	21.0	0	0	3	24.0	\$ 88.00	\$ 1,848	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 72	\$ 1.9							
IDIO	31	48	17	51	41	29	217.9	10	10	40	337.0	\$ 66.00	\$ 399	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3							
Total Costs Per Task	\$ 3,952	\$ 5,606	\$ 6,856	\$ 6,856	\$ 6,856	\$ 13,095	286.4	46	70	70	820.0	\$ 42,950	\$ 31,570	\$ 51,730	\$ 11,570	\$ 137.8									
Total Labor Hours Per Task	31	48	38	51	47	71	286.4	46	70	70	820.0	\$ 42,950	\$ 31,570	\$ 51,730	\$ 11,570	\$ 137.8									
Total (All Options)																									
Base																									
Agency (20%)	\$ 42,950																								
Agency (10%)	\$ 13,500																								
Base + Contingency	\$ 56,450																								
Total Labor Hours																									
Cost of Labor	\$ 820																								
Total Cost	\$ 151,320																								
Total Cost	\$ 151,320																								

estimate was generated using the current rates for each labor category for each of our IDIO contractors.
 estimates for the hours required for each task were developed based on information from government employees familiar with the level of effort as well as previously awarded contracts.
 estimates were developed independently and prior to the receipt of any proposals.
 estimate was reviewed and approved by someone with extensive experience preparing and reviewing IGEs for similar contracts.
 if a 5% estimate amount for a 20% increase in the state result of the initially submitted Review Documents

Charge

Full Study Name INDEPENDENT EXTERNAL PEER REVIEW REVIEW CHARGE

The following Review Charge to Reviewers outlines the objectives of the Independent External Peer Review (IEPR) for the subject study and identifies specific items for consideration for the IEPR Review Panel.

The objective of the IEPR is to obtain an independent evaluation of whether the interpretations of analysis and conclusions based on analysis are reasonable for the subject study. The IEPR Review Panel is requested to offer a broad evaluation of the overall study decision document in addition to addressing the specific technical and scientific questions included in the Review Charge. The Review Panel has the flexibility to bring important issues to the attention of decision makers or issues outside those specific areas outlined in the Review Charge. The Review Panel may use all available information to determine what scientific and technical matters, leaving policy determinations for the Panel should not make recommendations on whether a particular study or present findings that become "directives" in that they call for studies or suggest new conclusions and recommendations. In no event should the Review Panel be structured to fully communicate the Panel's intent by including comments that are not intended or, in any potential consequences of failure to address, and comment. The IEPR Performance Work Statement (PWS) and Review Charge should be structured to fully communicate the Panel's intent by including comments that are not intended or, in any potential consequences of failure to address, and comment. The IEPR Performance Work Statement (PWS) and Review Charge should be structured to fully communicate the Panel's intent by including comments that are not intended or, in any potential consequences of failure to address, and comment.

Review Questions

- Is the decision document clear?
- Does the document adequately address the stated need and intent relative to the project?
- Does the document adequately address the adequacy and acceptability of the study analyses;

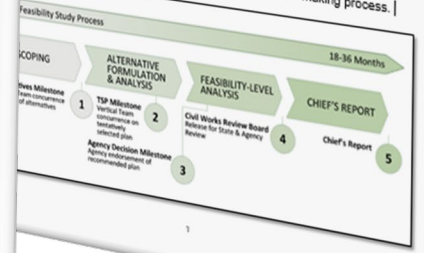
PERFORMANCE WORK STATEMENT PROJECT NAME DISTRICT NAME INDEPENDENT EXTERNAL PEER REVIEW

1. TITLE
Independent External Peer Review (IEPR) for Project Name, County, State

GENERAL
Description of the study area. Be sure to include the objectives of the project, its project map(s), etc. Be sure to describe the Tentatively Selected Plan

Name has been developed to reflect the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) modernized planning initiative, in which project studies use a risk-assessment, generally with only enough detail developed for each alternative to allow for comparative analysis, to determine the appropriate information to identify a TSP. In this study, the manner in which alternatives are developed from problems, needs, measures, and constraints remains the same.

SMART Planning paradigm. IEPR occurs during concurrent review of the TSP Document, between the TSP Milestone meeting and the Agency Decision Milestone (ADM) meeting (steps 2 and 3 in the SMART Feasibility Study diagram; Figure 1.1). The IEPR Review Panel and other risk management assessment and alternative evaluation documents. A primary objective of IEPR is to evaluate whether adequate information was available and appropriate technical analyses were completed to support a TSP within the context of the risk-informed decision-making process. [



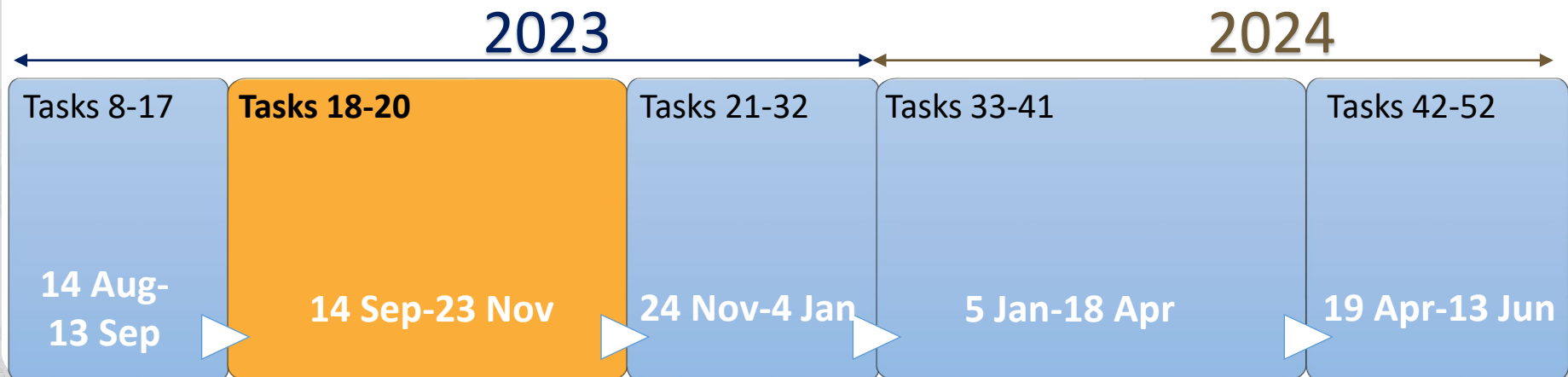
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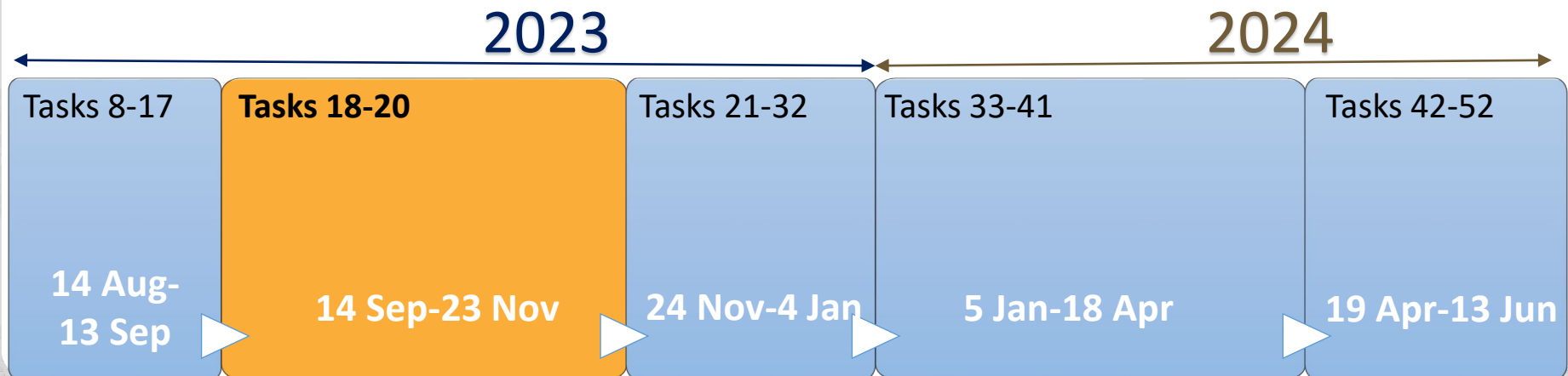
14 SEP– 23 NOV: CONTRACT AWARD/NTP

- During this time the PCX IEPR Lead will transmit the PWS/IGE/Charge to IWR to develop a Request for Proposal (RFP). The OEO will submit a proposal in response to the solicitation, which will be reviewed and approved by the PCX IEPR Lead/COR. If the proposal is acceptable, a contract will be awarded and Notice to Proceed (NTP) will be issued.
- Important Congressional notification takes place at this time.



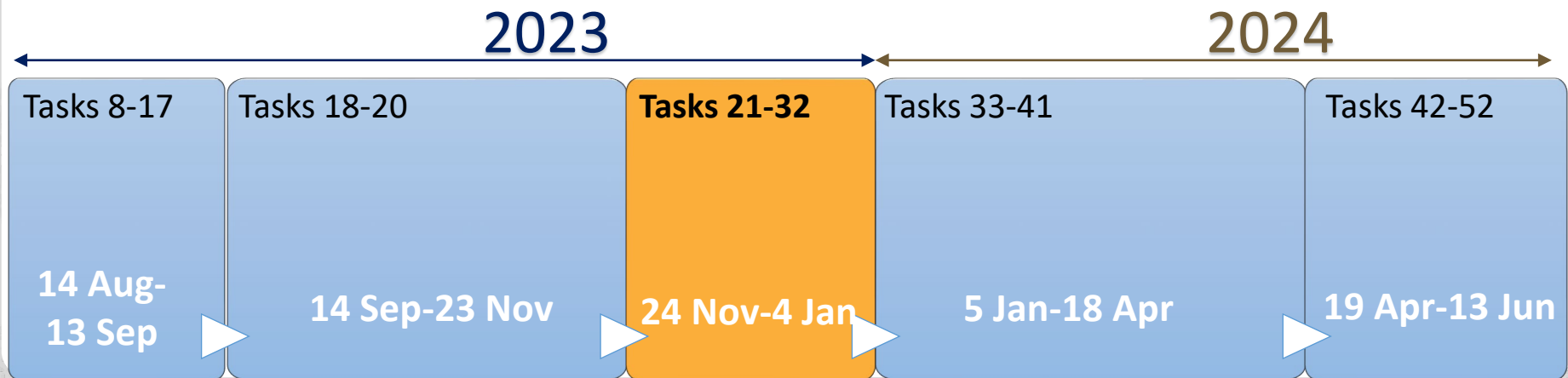
CORRESPONDING SOP TASKS

- Tasks 18-20
- Highlights:
 - Task 18: PCX IEPR Lead Provides PWS, Charge, IGE, and Funding to IWR
 - Task 19: IWR Awards IEPR Contract
 - Task 20: Notify Congress and Public of Contract Award, IEPR Timelines, Panel, etc.



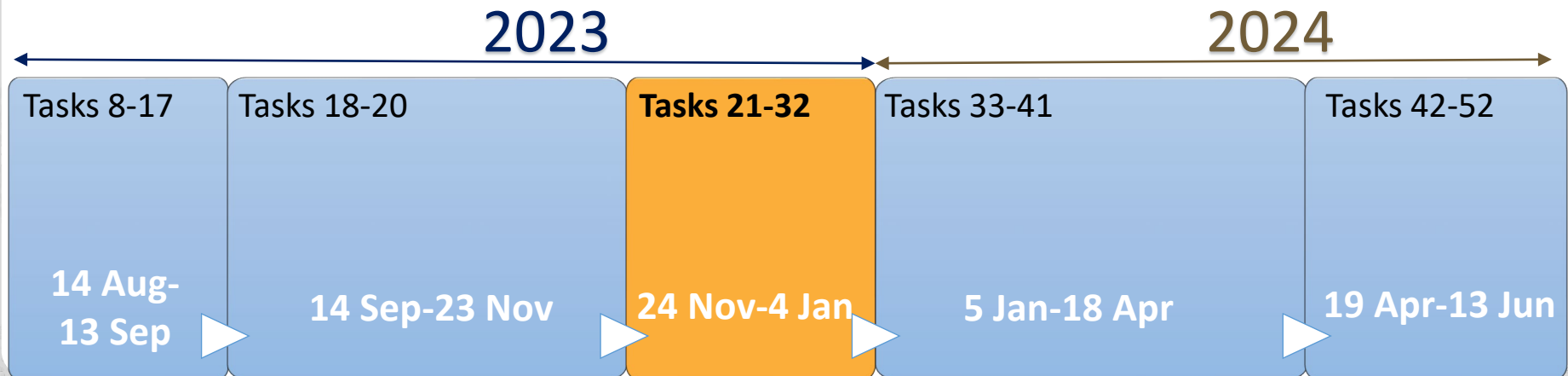
24 NOV– 4 JAN: ESTABLISH IEPR PANEL/INITIATE REVIEW

- During this time there is a lot of coordination between the PCX IEPR Lead, PDT, and the OEO. The OEO is working to develop the work plan, establish overall schedule, review protocols, and identify potential review panel members. Draft feasibility report documents are provided to the OEO at this time.



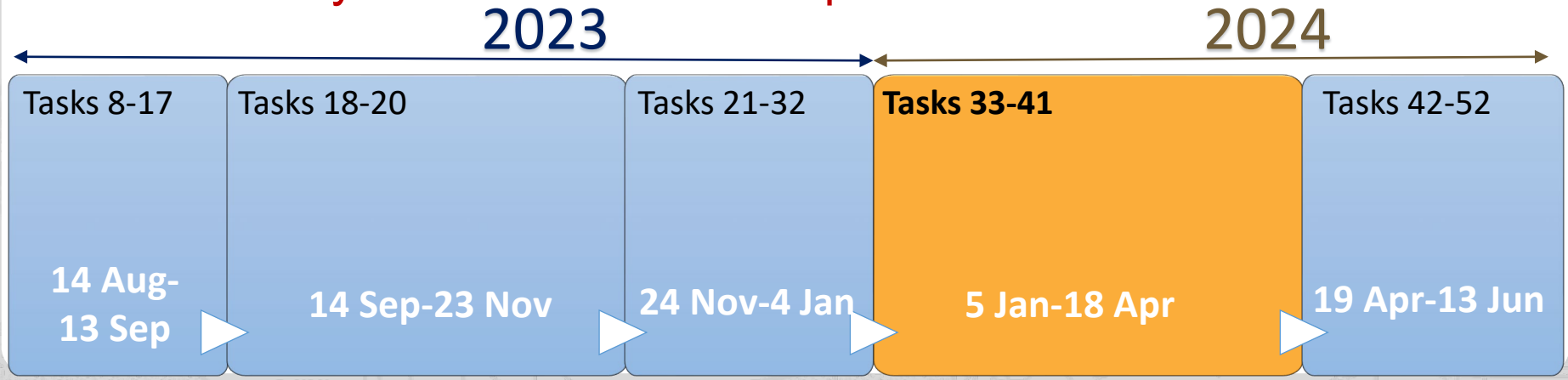
CORRESPONDING SOP TASKS

- Tasks 21-32
- Highlights:
 - Task 22: Kickoff Meeting #1 with PCX IEPR Lead/PDT/OEO
 - Task 23: OEO Requests Input from USACE on COI Form
 - Task 28: OEO Submits Final Work Plan
 - Task 30: USACE Reviews Selected Panel Members
 - Task 32: District Provides Final Review Documents to OEO



5 JAN–18 APR: CONDUCT REVIEW/PREPARE FINAL IEPR REPORT

- This period of time is largely focused on the panel review. This includes a PDT/Panel kickoff, and the panel develops and finalizes their comments. The panel will provide a Final IEPR Report, there is no draft report provided to USACE.
- Public comments must be provided to the Panel for review (drives timely delivery of the Final IEPR Report)
- The Final IEPR Report is posted publicly & transmitted to Congress
- **The ADM should be scheduled no sooner than two weeks after the delivery of the Final IEPR Report.**



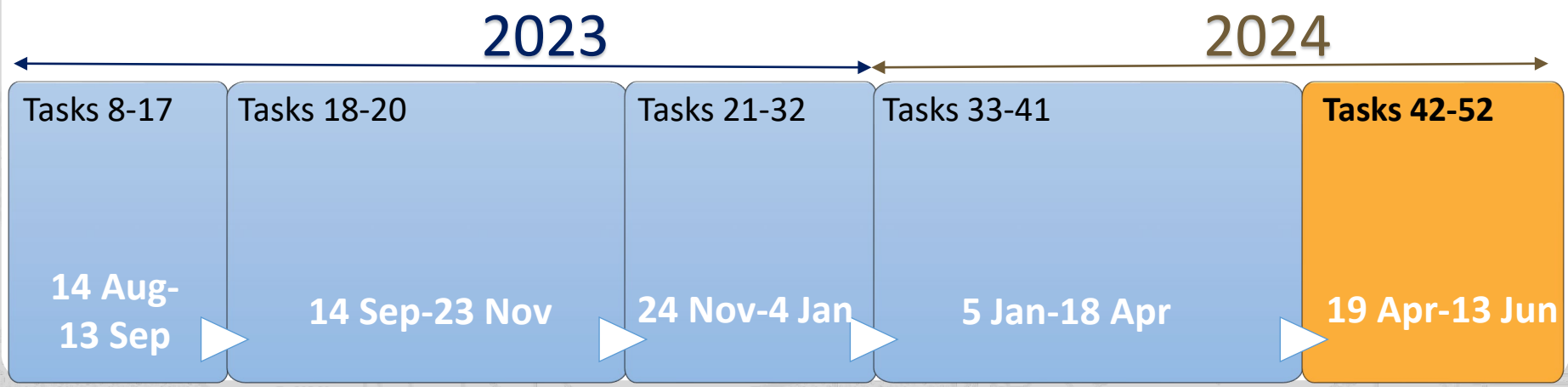
CORRESPONDING SOP TASKS

- Tasks 33-41
- Highlights:
 - Task 34: Kickoff Meeting #2 with Review Panel and PCX IEPR Lead/PDT/OEO
 - Task 36: Panel Members Complete Individual Reviews
 - Task 37: PDT Provides Public Comments to OEO
 - Task 39: OEO Submits Final IEPR Report to USACE
 - Task 40: IEPR Discussion During ADM
 - Task 41: HQ and Congressional Notification



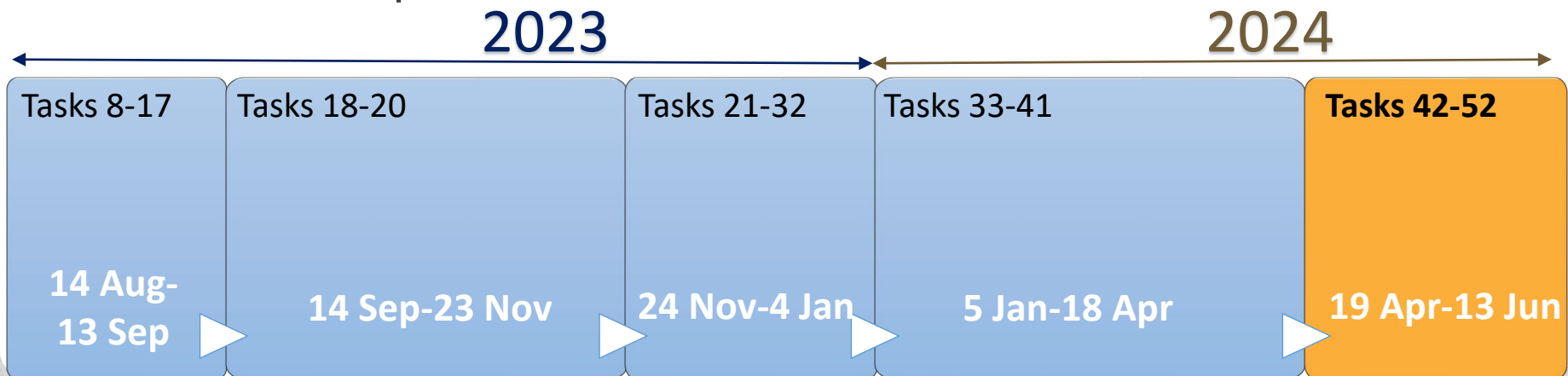
19 APR – 13 JUN: PREPARE RESPONSES/CONDUCT BACKCHECK

- This period of time focuses on the PDT draft evaluator responses to the final panel comments and backcheck/close out of the comments. The PCX IEPR Lead will review the draft evaluator responses for adherence to established protocols and proper formatting. A template is available for PDTs to better understand examples of good and not so good responses.



CORRESPONDING SOP TASKS

- Tasks 42-52
- Highlights:
 - Task 43: OEO Provides Final Panel Comments Response Template to USACE
 - Task 45: PCX IEPR Lead Conducts QC of Draft Evaluator Responses & Clarifying Questions
 - Task 49: USACE Inputs Final Evaluator Responses in DrChecks
 - Task 52: PCX IEPR Lead Transmits Panel Backcheck of the PDT Responses to the District



CRITICAL PDT ENGAGEMENT

- PDT/OEO/Panel Meetings:
 - Task 34: PDT/Panel establish understanding of the study area & report
 - Task 43: important for PDT to understand how to respond to comments
- Draft Evaluator Responses:
 - Tasks 44-47: these steps are critical for responding to comments appropriately and for establishing the basis for the agency response
- Draft Agency Response:
 - SOP Appendix E: provides multiple examples of how to develop the agency response from the initial evaluator responses



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DRAFT EVALUATOR RESPONSES

SOP – App. E

Template

Comment (statement and Basis for Comment) should be addressed and will not revise the document or conduct other activities in response to this issue.

Concur Not-Concur

Explanation:

The Corps concurs that specifics regarding mitigation requirements for biological, wetland, and cultural resources are necessary for completeness of the assessment. [The public review draft Feasibility Report/EIS included specifics regarding mitigation requirements for biological, wetland, and cultural resources for the TSP and all alternatives evaluated.]

2. For each recommendation, please indicate whether the PDT will 'adopt' or 'not adopt' the recommendation and provide an explanation. If 'adopt', please provide information on how this recommendation will be adopted. If 'not adopt', what please explain why.

Recommendation #1: Add the cultural resources survey (primary report) as an appendix to the EIS.
 Adopt Not adopt

Explanation:

The cultural resources survey was not included as an appendix to the EIS due to its size, but was referenced and would be available upon request.

Recommendation #2: Develop the Wetlands and Waters Mitigation Plan and add as an appendix to the EIS prior to release to the public.
 Adopt Not adopt

Explanation: K 404(b)(1) analysis was prepared which indicated that compensatory mitigation would not be required for the TSP or the recommended Alternative 2, as with implementation of the TSP by itself, or in combination with the rest of the BVP/IDP elements. The plans would increase both the acreage and functional values of wetlands and waters of the U.S. within the project area.

Recommendation #3: Prepare a cultural resources mitigation plan and add as an appendix to the EIS prior to release of the draft to the public.
 Adopt Not adopt

Explanation:

As opposed to a stand-alone cultural resources mitigation plan being prepared and added to an appendix in the EIS, the mitigation requirements were included in Chapter 7, Recommended Plan and Resource Impact Minimization Actions, as an item in the Mitigation and Monitoring Measures Section 7.2.2. [The bridge and demolition of the pump stations, HABS/HAER Level II written documentation and high quality digital photography will be completed. Additionally, mitigation for impacts under the BVP will include the distribution of 250 hard-bound copies of a revised version of the 2010 Intensive Engineering Inventory and Analysis of the historic project. The report will be revised to meet Public History standards. The hard-bound copies of this book will be distributed to all branches of the XXXX Public Library system. Mitigation of any archaeological sites discovered during construction will be determined on a resource-specific basis.

PCX
This sounds like the information is in the report and therefore the Corps doesn't need to do anything. If this is true, then this is a Non-Concur.

PCX
How? This response should clarify that the survey would be available upon request in the EIS appendix.

PCX
This sounds like a Not-Adopt. There isn't any text indicating that the plan will be added as an appendix.

PCX
Same comment as previous recommendation text indicating that the plan will be added as an appendix.

Strategy for Streamlining Agency Response (begin this during Task 44 of the IEPR process)

Begin with the end in mind. PDTs should consider the end goal when drafting initial responses to IEPR responses. This will help to reduce the amount of rewriting responses for the Agency Response Report.



When drafting the initial IEPR responses, the PDT members should begin EACH response with a concise and complete summary that addresses the requirements for the final Agency Responses. If a more detailed technical explanation is necessary to satisfy the IEPR review, this detail can be added after the summary.

Key: Conduct a PDT meeting prior to any responses being drafted and decide on a format for referencing the report and the appendices within responses. For example: "the information can be found in section 4.2.5 of the Final Feasibility Report."

Person in charge: Early on, assign one PDT member to be responsible for preparing the Agency Response to IEPR document to ensure consistency. It makes most sense for this person to be someone with a good overall understanding of the study and most technical disciplines. Good examples include the Lead Planner, the Engineering Technical Lead, the Economist or the Project Manager.

When all possible: When evaluating a recommendation read it carefully and always ask, "Is there anything that we can adopt this?" Many times, the reviewer will only ask for something to be added, but not require it. Recommendations for consideration should always be adopted. Recommendations that are not concurred with and recommendations that are not adopted will continue to be under further scrutiny throughout the rest of the approval process. To the extent possible, always take action has been taken or will be taken as a result of the IEPR Panel's comment. This can be done by rewording a paragraph, or adding text to the document to tell the story in a way that can be understood. After all, if the reviewer had the question, others will too. Identifying the critical information in the Agency Response to IEPR comments, if written during the initial responses to the panel, it will save the team from having to identify or document actions later.



IEPR AGENCY RESPONSES*

Best Practices:

1. Take the time to prepare thorough Draft “Evaluator” Responses to provide a solid foundation for the Final Agency Response.
2. Appendix E just provides guidelines. Check with your RIT before developing the Draft Agency Response for any updates or refinements to process. For recently approved Final Agency Response examples: <http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Project-Planning/Completed-Peer-Review-Reports/>
3. Coordinate with your MSC and RIT early, especially if any Draft Responses might be sensitive or controversial in nature.
4. The Final Agency Response process occurs prior to and concurrent with delivery of the Final Feasibility Report to HQUSACE.

*IEPR SOP Reference: Tasks #55-65 and Appendix E: IEPR Agency Response Process



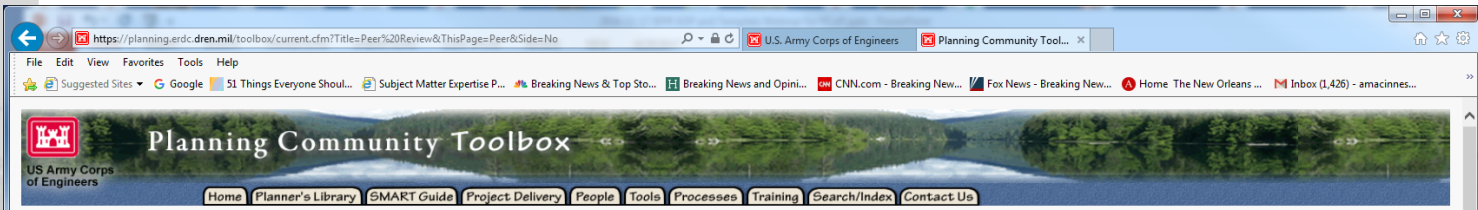
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SOP & TEMPLATES POSTING

The SOP and all Templates can be found on the Planning Community Toolbox at:

<https://planning.erdc.dren.mil/toolbox/current.cfm?Title=Peer%20Review&ThisPage=Peer&Side=No>



- PLANNING LINKS
- Planning Overview
- Agreements
- Corps Planning Centers of Expertise (PCXs)
- Civil Works Review Board
- Congressional Links
- Chief's Reports
- Current Initiatives
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
- Model Certification
- Pilot Studies
- Planner's Training
- Planning Guidance
- Planning Guidance Notebook
- Review
- WRDAs and other Key Laws

Review

Definitions, completed Independent External Peer Review (IEPRs), Agency Technical Review (ATR)

Guidance

- [Engineer Circular 1165-2-214: Water Resource Policies and Authorities, Civil Works Review](#)
This circular provides a process for review of all Civil Works projects from initial plan replacement, and rehabilitation. Per [Planning Bulletin 2016-02](#), except for specific changes while a replacement document is being developed.
- [Engineer Regulation 1105-2-100: Planning Guidance Notebook, Appendix H - Amendment #](#)
This appendix prescribes policy compliance review and approval procedures for the full and general reevaluation reports, post-authorization change reports, and other reports submitted.
- [Engineer Regulation 1110-1-8159: Dr. Checks](#)
This regulation updates the policy and procedures for managing the Design Review and website address and technical contact information.
- [Engineer Regulation 1165-2-502: Resources Policies and Authorities, Delegation of Review a](#)
This regulation provides guidance on delegated review and approval of Post-Authorization
- [Planning Bulletin 2016-02 Civil Works Review](#)
This bulletin provides interim Civil Works review policy while a replacement for the existing Engineering and Construction Bulletin 2016-09 signed by Mr. James Dalton.

District Quality Control (DQC)

- [District Quality Control \(DQC\) Primer, National Planning Centers of Expertise](#)
- [Decision Document Review Plan Template](#)
- [District Quality Control, DQC Primer, Presentation](#)
- [DQC and ATR - What You Should Know](#)
- [Ecosystem Restoration Review Plans](#)
- [Review Plan Checklist for Decision Document](#)
This checklist still lists the old Civil Work Review Policy EC, please see the latest Civil Works Review Policy guidance as a reference instead.
- [Review Plans by District or Division](#)
This link redirects to the USACE Headquarters website for district and division review plans.

Agency Technical Review (ATR)

- [Agency Technical Review Guide for Ecosystem Restoration Projects](#)
This review guide was developed by the National Ecosystem Restoration Planning Center of Expertise. In August 2003, the Corps' Director of Civil Works directed the establishment of national centers to conduct larger, complex planning studies for inland navigation, deep-draft navigation, ecosystem restoration, water supply, and flood damage reduction. The national centers are part of a Corps initiative to improve the quality and effectiveness of the planning process for water resources projects called the Planning Excellence Program (PEP). The PEP includes training and work force capability improvement, enhanced quality assurance and control efforts, process improvement and regional and national planning centers.
- [ATR Team Leader Responsibilities Presentation](#)
- [ATR Lead Checklist for Planning and Decision Documents](#)
- [ATR Review Report for Decision Documents \(Template\)](#)
- [DQC and ATR - What You Should Know](#)
- [Find ATR Certified Reviewers for other CoPs](#)
- [Find Engineering & Construction ATR Certified Reviewers](#)
- [Find Planning SubCoP ATR Certified Reviewers in the Planner Database](#)

Independent External Peer Review (IEPR)

- [Annual Report to Congress on IEPR](#)
- [Headquarter Peer Review Website](#)
Guidance, publications, resources, review plans, peer review reports and USACE responses.
- [Delegation of Authority in Section 2034\(a\)\(5\)\(A\) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007](#)
- [GAO Report: Peer Review Process for Civil Works Project Studies Can Be Improved](#)
GAO was asked to examine the number of Corps project studies that have undergone independent peer review in response to Section 2034 of WRDA 2007, the cost of those studies, and the processes the Corps used to conduct peer review.
- [Type I IEPR Timeline Overview](#)
- [Type I Independent External Peer Review Process - Standard Operating Procedures](#)
This SOP is written to only address Type I IEPR. It assumes that Civil Works Decision Documents are completed following the guidance as described in ER-1105-2-100. In addition, it should be noted that the scope and associated cost of Type I IEPR will vary for each specific study or decision document. It also assumes that the Type I IEPR will be performed on the Draft Report. However, it is possible to perform Type I IEPR on interim products or earlier in the planning process. Finally, other project types may require Type II IEPR which is described fully in EC 1165-2-209.
- [USACE Responses to IEPR Webinar](#)

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Review Link

IEPR

CONTACTS

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Deep Draft Navigation PCX	IEPR Lead: Kim Otto (SAM)
Ecosystem Restoration PCX	Operating Director: Greg Miller (MVD)
Nationwide PCX Support	IEPR National Technical Specialist: Andrew MacInnes (MVN)
Flood Risk Management PCX	Deputy Director: Eric Thaut (SPD)
Water Management & Reallocation Studies PCX	Technical Director: Meredith LaDart (SWD)
Inland Navigation PCX	Senior Planner: Beth Cade (LRH)
Nationwide PCX Support	IEPR National Technical Specialist: Anastasiya Kononova (NAB)



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LIST OF ACRONYMS

PWS: Performance Work Statement
OEO: Outside Eligible Organization
IGE: Independent Government Estimate
IWR: Institute for Water Resources
NTP: Notice to Proceed
COI: Conflict of Interest
ADM: Agency Decision Milestone
EIS: Environmental Impact Statement
IEPR: Independent External Peer Review
PDT: Project Delivery Team
PCX: Planning Center of Expertise
SOP: Standard Operating Procedure



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Questions?

Type questions in the chat box.
We will answer as many
as time allows.



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