



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SAVANNAH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
100 W. OGLETHORPE AVENUE
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401-3640

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

JANUARY 24 2012

Regulatory Division

PUBLIC NOTICE
COMPLIANCE WITH EXECUTIVE ORDER 13563

On November 16, 2011, the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) published in the Federal Register, its request for comments regarding our proposal under Executive Order 13563 of January 18, 2011, "Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review". On January 23, 2012 USACE published in the Federal Register, an extension of the comment period regarding Executive Order 13563, "USACE's Plan for Retrospective Review Under Executive Order 13563". Written comments must be submitted on or before March 2, 2012.

The USACE is seeking public input on its plan to retrospectively review its Regulations implementing the USACE Regulatory Program at 33 CFR 320-332 and 334. Executive Order 13563, "Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review", issued on January 18, 2011, directs federal agencies to review existing significant regulations and identify those that can be made more effective or less burdensome in achieving regulatory objectives. The Regulations are essential for implementation of the Regulatory mission; thus, the USACE believes they are a significant rule warranting review pursuant to Executive Order 13563. The Executive Order further directs each agency to periodically review its existing significant regulations to determine whether any such regulations should be modified, streamlined, expanded, or repealed, so as to make the agency's regulatory program more effective or less burdensome in achieving the regulatory objectives. Section 404(e) of the Clean Water Act, authorizes the USACE to develop general permits, including nationwide permits (NWP), for minor activities in waters of the US for a period of five years. Accordingly, every five years, USACE undergoes a reauthorization process for the NWP program and includes public notice and provides an opportunity for public hearing. Comments for the NWP program are submitted during the reauthorization process. Therefore, USACE is currently complying with Executive Order 13563 direction to periodically review its existing significant regulations. Other significant regulations will also be reviewed on an as-needed basis in accordance with new laws, court cases, etc.

National Issues Concerning the Proposed Reviews: The Federal Register notice is the public's opportunity to comment on the proposed retrospective review of the Regulations and the continued periodic review of the NWP program for compliance with Executive Order 13563. Responses to the questions posed in the Federal Register, as well as additional issues or suggestions, are encouraged. The request for information will inform the USACE's decision on whether adjustments to the regulations are necessary and appropriate, and whether additional guidance, education, or outreach would better assist the Regulation users, agencies, and the public to address critical issues. Comments on national issues relating to these reviews should be submitted to docket number COE-2011-0028 at <http://www.regulations.gov>, or by email to regulatory.review@usace.army.mil, or by mail to Headquarters, US Army Corps of Engineers, Directorate of Civil Works, ATTN: CECW-CO-R, 441 G Street, NW, Washington, DC

20314-1000. Instructions for submitting comments are provided in the November 16, 2011 and January 23, 2012 Federal Register notices. Comments on the proposed reviews are due by March 2, 2012.

The URL for the website that includes the Regulations and information, as well as all of the USACE's Regulatory Programs' current regulations and supporting program data and information is http://www.usace.army.mil/CECW/Pages/reg_materials.aspx. The Corps will evaluate all comments received to develop its list of review priorities, and will publish a notice in the Federal Register that summarizes the comments received and lists the review priorities. The website will be updated as proposal revisions and final revisions to its regulations occur.