



Pittsburgh District Water Quality Mission

Vision

Provide all District watersheds, lakes, civil works projects, the navigation program, and stream restoration projects, with water quality expertise, informative products, and reliable data.

Mission

Work in conjunction with the Operations and Readiness Division and the Engineering and Construction Division to support District activities in the planning, design, construction, and operation of water-related projects in order to achieve the congressionally authorized purposes of flood control, water quality, water supply, low flow augmentation, navigation, recreation, fish and wildlife enhancement, whitewater rafting, and hydropower.

Goal: In accordance with ER1110-2-8154, the water quality unit of the Pittsburgh District will adopt and implement the following water quality and ecological management objectives for all Corps water resource projects and activities:

Objectives:

1. Ensure that water quality and ecological health, as affected by District activities, and projects and their operations, are suitable for designated purposes, existing water uses, and public health and safety and are in compliance with applicable Federal, state, tribal and local laws and regulations.
2. Define baseline water quality and ecosystem conditions for existing and proposed projects and studies. A pre-project water quality and ecosystem evaluation, and/or a description of the post-construction water quality and ecosystem characteristics must be developed at the earliest time in which data collection is practical.
3. Establish and maintain a water quality monitoring and data evaluation program that ensures: 1) the achievement of water quality management objectives, 2) the evaluation of project performance, and 3) an understanding of water quality and associated ecological trends.
4. In a watershed context, identify existing and potential water quality problems and develop and implement effective solutions. Identify opportunities for water quality and/or ecological improvements to projects or receiving waters and initiate management actions that accomplish those improvements.
5. Integrate water quality and ecological considerations into all water control management decisions.
6. Maintain coordination and communication among Division and District elements involved in environmental and water quality matters.
7. Maintain close coordination and, where possible, collaboration with all interested governmental and nongovernmental entities with regard to activities that may affect, or be affected by, water quality, ecological and/or water control decisions associated with Corps projects.
8. Use an interdisciplinary team approach to develop objectives, establish priorities, and execute water quality and ecosystem management programs and activities.
9. Develop an understanding and continuing awareness of the water quality and ecological factors and processes in the project, its watershed, and in the area influenced by project operation.
10. Where degraded conditions exist, develop plans to restore ecosystem function to a biologically diverse, productive, and robust condition whenever possible. These plans should be coordinated with appropriate Federal, state, tribal, local and other stakeholders.
11. Ensure that all Corps water resource activities offer the lowest potential negative impact to the affected aquatic and riparian environment and are managed to accentuate their potential to improve conservation and preservation of natural and cultural resources.

12. Document the water quality and ecological management activities of the Civil Works Program and individual projects to record trends, identify problems and accomplishments, and provide information and guidance.
13. Recognize that some problems and opportunities demand rapid, timely response. District water managers are empowered to react in a time frame commensurate with the event and with best available information and judgment. Long-term situations allow for more comprehensive study and refined response.
14. Promote and develop cost-sharing partnerships in accordance with established authorities.
15. To the greatest extent possible, incorporate ecological sustainability and consider system response in all water resource activities.
16. In a watershed context, pursue collaboration with stakeholders and support education and communication.

The Water Quality Program is responsible for water quality issues related to all projects and navigable waters within the District's jurisdiction. Water quality is an integral component of all U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) civil works missions. Pittsburgh District projects are mandated to meet federal and state water quality standards and stewardship responsibilities. The primary policies, legislation, and regulations follow.

Congressional Authorization:

- * Project specific authorization for water quality at Allegheny Reservoir (PL-77-228 & PL-92-500), East Branch Lake (PL-75-761, PL-92-500), Woodcock Creek Lake (PL 87-874, PL 92-500), Shenango Lake (PL-75-761), Berlin Lake (PL 75-761, PL 92-500), Michael J. Kirwan Reservoir (PL 92-500, PL 86-645), and Mosquito Creek Lake (PL 75-761, PL 92-500).
- * Project specific authorization for low flow augmentation at Allegheny Reservoir (PL 74-738, PL 75-761, PL 77-228), East Branch Lake (PL-75-761), Woodcock Creek Lake (PL-87-874), Shenango Lake (PL-75-761), Berlin (PL 75-761), Michael J. Kirwan (PL 85-500), Mosquito (PL-75-761).
- * Project specific authorization for water supply at Berlin (PL 75-761), Michael J. Kirwan (PL 85-500, PL 86-645), and Mosquito (PL 75-761).
- * General water quality responsibility at all of District reservoirs (including Tionesta and Union City).
- * Add-on Congressional authorization for fish & wildlife protection and enhancement at all District reservoirs (Public Law 85-624, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1958).

Federal Laws:

- * Water Resources Development Act of 1986, 1988, 1990, 1992, 1996, 1999, 2000, and 2007.
- * River and Harbor and Flood Control Act of 1970.
- * Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1948 and its amendments including the Clean Water Act of 1977 and the Water Quality Act of 1987.
- * Fish & Wildlife Coordination Act.
- * National Environmental Policy Act.
- * Endangered Species Act.
- * Safe Drinking Water Act.
- * Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.
- * Federal Power Act (requires preservation of existing project authorities and benefits).
- * Federal Facilities Compliance Act of 1990.

USACE Regulations:

- * ER-1110-2-8154, Water Quality and Environmental Management for Corps Civil Works Projects.
- * EM 1110-2-1420, Engineering and Design - Hydrologic Engineering Requirements for Reservoirs.
- * ER 1110-2-1454, Corps Responsibilities for Non-Federal Hydropower Development under the FPA.

- * ER 1110-2-1462, Water Quality and Water Control Considerations for Non-Federal Hydropower Development at Corps of Engineers Projects.
- * EM 1110-2-1201, Engineering and Design - Reservoir Water Quality Analysis Proponent.
- * ER 1110-2-240, Water Control Management.
- * EM 1110-2-3600, Management of Water Control Systems.
- * ER 1110-2-1150, Engineering and Design for Civil Works Projects.
- * ER 1105-2-100, Guidance for Conducting Civil Works Planning Studies.
- * ER 1130-2-344, Prevention, Control and Abatement of Environmental Pollution at Federal Facilities.
- * ER 1130-2-540, Environmental Stewardship Operations and Maintenance Policies, Fish & Wildlife Management.
- * EP 1165-2-1, The Federal Responsibility in Water Resources, Water Quality Enhancement and Management.
- * ER 1165-2-501, Civil Works Ecosystem Restoration Policy.
- * ER 200-2-3, Environmental Compliance Policies.
- * ER 200-1-5, Policy for Implementation and Integrated Application of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers [Environmental Operating Principles](#) and Doctrine. The Environmental Operating Principles require environmental consideration for all Corps activity and sustainable management.

Executive Orders:

- * 10548, Prescribing Rules and Regulations Relating to the Administration of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act.
- * 10913, Amending Executive Order 10584 of December 18, 1954, Prescribing Rules and Regulations Relating to the Administration of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act.
- * 12088, Federal Compliance with Pollution Control Standards.
- * 12274, Environmental Stewardship and Transportation Infrastructure Project Reviews.
- * 12777, Implementation of Section 311 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of October 18, 1972, as Amended, and the Oil Pollution Act of 1990.
- * 13148, Greening the Government Through Leadership in Environmental Management.
- * 13352, Facilitation of Cooperative Conservation.
- * 13423, Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management.

Agency Agreements

- * USGS / Interior (share goods and services)
- * FERC (Federal Power Act, management of nonfederal hydropower projects)
- * Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Interior, & Defense, USEPA, and the Council on Environmental Quality (cooperative conservation, Executive Order 13352)
- * BLM (Mineral Resources, NEPA, water quality)
- * USFWS (sustainable solutions to improve development of environmental resources; environmental management; conserve, protect, restore fisheries; fish & wildlife management; F&W Conservation Act)
- * NOAA (ecosystem restoration, water management, hydrometeorological assessments, etc)
- * NRCS (enhance collaborative efforts to improve management of water and water related resources; mutual commitment for comprehensive water management including water quality improvement)
- * DOA (water supply management, hydropower, fish & wildlife, water quality, etc)
- * TNC (National and Regional, manage water resources)