Common Decision Documents for Post-Authorization Changes

• **Minor Updates from Feasibility Report**
  • Economic updates, typically approved by the Corps, District Commander

• **Limited Changes from Feasibility Report**
  • Within the South Pacific Division (SPD) Commander’s authority

• **Project Exceeds Maximum Cost Limit**
  • Requires Congressional reauthorization

• **Significant Changes from Feasibility Report**
  • Post Authorization Decision Document (PADD)
  • Requires SPD or HQ/ASA/Congressional approval
Authority for Changes to an authorized project

The discretionary authority to make post-authorization changes without seeking further Congressional authority is restricted to circumstances where the scope, area to be served, purpose, function or plan of improvement of the project is not materially altered (within a specified range/scope).

Changes in authorized projects may be made without Congressional permission if the changes are required either by engineering necessity or are needed to accommodate changed economic and/or physical conditions.

The approval authority depends on the type and magnitude (scope/metrics) of a change.....
Approval Authority for Changes

The approval authority is at one of five levels:

- Reauthorization by Congress
- Secretary of the Army
- Chief of Engineers
- Division Commander
- District Commander
Approval Authority of the District Commander

Some limited changes may be approved by the District Commander:

- Documentation of Design Refinements.
- Minor cost updates and scope changes associated with design refinements...i.e., less than 20%.
- Insignificant changes in environmental impacts (typically Supplemental EA).
Approval Authority of the Division Commander

Typical Criteria:

• Within the Chief of Engineer’s delegated authority:
• Does not require action by Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works (ASA (CW)) or authorization by Congress
• Required Documentation
  - Generally, a Limited Reevaluation Report (LRR)
  - NEPA Document is required ( Likely EA)
Approval Authority by Corps Headquarters

Typical Criteria:

- Within the Chief of Engineer’s authority
- Requires coordination with, but no authorization by ASA(CW)
- Does not require authorization by Congress
- Required Documentation
  - General Reevaluation Report (GRR)
  - NEPA Document (SEIS)
Approval Authority by the ASA(CW)

Typical Criteria:

- Change does not require authorization by Congress.
- Congressional discretion: delegated authority to the ASA(CW)
- ASA(CW) does not delegate the authority to the USACE
- NEPA Document is required
Changes Requiring Authorization by Congress

Typical Criteria:

- Addition or deletion of a project purpose.
- Change in local cooperation requirements specifically referenced in authorizing language.
- Cost increase greater than 20% (Section 902 Limit).
- Significant change in project scope.
- Required Documentation
  - General Reevaluation Report (GRR)
  - NEPA Document (SEIS)
- Other?......
Design Phase Decision Tree for Disposal of Fines

Prior Objective: Retain Approval Authority within the 1st Tier

Fines Disposal Options

Sequester Fines

BRDA

Options:
- BRDA 1-4 (136 Ac)
- BRDA 1-2 only (89 Ac)

BRDA 1-4 Issues:
- Cost Increase of approx $34+ Million over Feas

BRDA 1-2 Issues
- Cost Increase of approx $20+ Million over Feas

MODA

Options:
- Feas (94 Ac)
- East/West Split (72 Ac)
- MODA East (46 Ac)

Issues:
- Property Owner/Community Concerns
- Cost Increase of approx $14+ Million over Feas

Upstream (USA)

Options:
- 2 sites (USA 1&2)

Issues:
- Approx 37 Ac of add'l impacts outside of Feas stockpile footprint (225 Ac Feas vs 262 Ac USA & Stockpiles)
- Concerns regarding concept design: little/no erosion potential
- Cost Increase of approx $15+ Million over Feas

Other?
**Design Phase Fines Disposal: Cost & Schedule Impacts**

**Fines Disposal Options**

- **Sequester Fines**
  - BRDA
    - Sites 1-4:
      - Supplemental EA
      - Requires 902 Congressional Reauthorization due to cost increase
      - Concurrent action with ongoing design: 2-3 months impact likely for 902 approval
      - Costs approx $150k

- **Other Sites Upstream of BRDA**
  - Sites 1-2:
    - Supplemental EA
    - Requires 902 Reauthorization
    - 2-3 month impact for 902
    - Costs approx $150k

- **Natural Transport of Fines**
  - Upstream of Robles
    - Likely requires EIS due to change in water supply impacts
    - PADD required
    - If significant change in timeframe for project ecorest benefits, Congressional Reauthorization likely
    - 7-10 year impact due to PADD (new Feas study) & Congress Reauth
    - Costs approx $5-7M

- **Downstream of Hwy 150**
  - Likely requires EIS
  - PADD required
  - If significant change in timeframe for project ecorest benefits, Congressional Reauthorization likely
  - 7-10 year impact due to PADD (new Feas study) & Congress Reauth
  - Costs approx $5-7M
Decision Document (PADD) Tasks

First Milestone Review of Tentatively Recommended Plan
- Hold Public Workshop
- Analyze Alts, Env Impacts, Costs, Real Estate Requirements (includes model cert)
- Select Tentative Plan
- Prepare Interim Draft Report
- Agency Technical Review
- Policy Review
- Approx 1.5-2 yrs

Second Milestone Review/Public Draft
- Detailed Analysis of Recommended Plan
- Prepare Public Draft Report (EIS/EIR)
- Initiate Independent External Peer Review (IEPR)
- Agency Technical Review
- Policy Review
- Approx 1.5-2 yrs

Public Meeting
- Respond to Review Comments/Finalize Public Draft Report
- Complete additional ATR & Policy Review
- Initiate 45-day Public Review
- Approx 6-9 mo

Chief of Engineers Report
- Complete IEPR
- Respond to comments
- Finalize Report Documentation
- Complete District Report
- Transmit to MSC & Corps HQ
- Prepare for 30-day Washington-Level State & Agency Review
- Testify at Civil Works Review Board
- Initiate Washington Level Review
- Prepare Chief Of Engineer’s Report
- Approx 1 yr

Reinitiate Design
- Administration Review
- Record of Decision
- WRDA Authorization
- Unknown Timeframe

Initiate PADD Study
- Prepare PMP
- Review & Approval
- Negotiate & Sign Design Agreement Mod
- 75%/25% Cost Share Splie
- Approx 6 mo-1 yr
References

• ER 200-2-2: Procedures for Implementing NEPA, March 1988
• ER 1105-2-100: Planning Guidance Notebook, Appendix G (PAC reports) & Appendix H (Review & Approval of Decision Documents), November 2007
• ER 1110-2-1150: Engineering and Design for Civil Works Projects, August 1999
• CESPD-ET-P Memorandum: Guidance for Post-Authorization Decision Documents, April 1999
• ER 1130-2-530: Flood Control Operations and Maintenance Policies, November 1996
Upstream Storage of Fines
Slurry Disposal Sites

MODA East
MODA West
BRDA 1
BRDA 2
BRDA 3
BRDA 4