



April 25, 2016

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DC Update - Appropriations & WRDA

The Energy & Water Appropriations process continues to move swiftly through the House and Senate. Nor'wester readers will recall that the [House bill](#) was released on April 12th, funding the Corps at \$6.1 billion, including \$2.7 billion for the agency's navigation program. The bill was passed out of the full Appropriations Committee on April 19th, and is not expected to reach the House floor until next month. The [Senate bill](#), which funds the Corps at \$6 billion, was passed out of Committee on April 14th and hit the Senate floor last week. It is anticipated that the bill will be voted on by the full Senate early this week.

Both bills provided robust additional funding for the Corps of Engineers. A comparison can be found below:

Account	President's Budget Request	House Bill	Senate Bill
General Investigations	\$85,000,000	\$120,000,000	\$126,500,000
Flood & Storm Damage Reduction		\$5,818,000	\$5,000,000
Flood Control		\$4,500,000	\$4,000,000
Shore Protection		\$3,000,000	\$2,500,000

Navigation		\$1,500,000	\$5,000,000
Coastal & Deep Draft		\$6,000,000	\$5,000,000
Inland		\$6,000,000	\$5,000,000
Other Authorized Project Purposes		\$2,500,000	\$2,340,000
Environmental Restoration or Compliance		\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
Construction	\$1,090,000,000	\$1,945,580,000	\$1,813,000,000
Flood & Storm Damage Reduction		\$217,180,000	\$0
Flood Control		\$175,000,000	\$125,000,000
Shore Protection		\$50,000,000	\$50,000,000
Navigation		\$245,000,000	\$227,374,000
IWTF		\$75,250,000	\$75,325,000
Other Authorized Project Purposes		\$43,000,000	\$48,000,000
Environmental Restoration		\$25,000,000	\$40,000,000
Environmental Infrastructure		\$10,000,000	\$68,950,000
CAP Section 107		\$7,000,000	\$7,000,000
Operations & Maintenance	\$2,705,000,000	\$3,157,000,000	\$3,170,000,000
Navigation Maintenance		\$25,300,000	\$23,528,000
Deep Draft Harbor & Channel		\$258,000,000	\$250,000,000
Donor & Energy Transfer Ports		\$10,000,000	\$50,000,000
Inland Waterways		\$48,000,000	\$45,000,000
Small, Remote & Subsistence		\$50,000,000	\$48,000,000
Other Authorized Purposes		\$48,000,000	\$35,100,000

Action also continues for the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) process. PNWA staff has been told that a Senate bill could be released as early as this week, and the House may have a bill available in May.

PNWA continues to track both the appropriations and authorization processes, and we will provide updates to our membership as they are available. For more information about the legislation, or your particular project, please contact [Heather Stebbings](#).

Diesel Emission Reduction Act extension proposed

A bipartisan group of senators from the Environment & Public Works Committee (EPW) introduced [legislation](#) on April 19th which would extend the Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) through 2021. The five year extension would ensure that the DERA program continues to offer grants for the replacement or refurbishment of older engines with new models that run cleaner and produce fewer emissions. Since its establishment in 2005, the DERA program has awarded over \$500 million in grants to replace or refurbish over 59,000 engines, and it is set to expire this year. The [re-authorization bill](#) would keep the program's current \$100 million annual funding in place. PNWA will continue to track DERA funding, and will provide updates to *Nor'wester* readers as they are available.

Northwest delegation continues efforts for small ports

As work on the 2016 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) progresses, PNWA and Members of the Northwest Congressional delegation continue to lead the national effort to fund small ports. PNWA coordinated letters led by Senators Ron Wyden (OR) and Jeff Merkley (OR), and Representative Jaime Herrera Beutler (WA-3) to request that a 10% small port set-aside be made permanent in the next WRDA. This request builds upon improvements made in WRRDA 2014, where 10% of annual Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF) spending was directed to small ports through FY2022. Making the set-aside permanent would ensure a regular source of funding for small ports nationwide and will allow for more predictability and certainty for these projects moving forward.

Both letters had great regional and national support. The [Senate](#) letter, which was submitted to the Environment & Public Works Committee (EPW), was supported by a total of seven Senators including Ron Wyden (OR), Jeff Merkley (OR), Patty Murray (WA), Maria Cantwell (WA), Richard Blumenthal (CT), Mazie Hirono (HI) and Angus King (ME). Northwest Representatives Derek Kilmer (WA-6), Suzan DelBene (WA-1), Suzanne Bonamici (OR-1), Kurt Schrader (OR-5), Denny Heck (WA-10), Rick Larsen (WA-2), Dan Newhouse (WA-4) and Dave Reichert (WA-8) joined Congresswoman Herrera Beutler on the [House letter](#), which was sent to the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee (T&I) and is signed by a total of 24 House members from around the nation.

PNWA greatly appreciates the leadership by Senator Wyden, Senator Merkley and Representative Herrera Beutler on these letters, and we sincerely thank the Members of our Northwest delegation who signed on and voiced their support for small ports. We will continue to monitor the WRDA process and provide updates as both the House and Senate move forward. For more information, contact [Heather Stebbings](#).

Release of Draft EIS for Millennium Bulk Terminal project announced

Cowlitz County has announced the dates for the hearings associated with the release of the SEPA Draft Environmental Impact Study (EIS) for Millennium Bulk Terminal's Coal Export Terminal Project. This means the delayed release of the Draft EIS is likely on schedule with a planned release date of April 29.

Hearings will be scheduled in Longview, Cowlitz County Regional Event Center (May 24, 1-9 p.m.), Spokane WA, Spokane Convention Center (May 26, 1-9 p.m.) and Pasco, WA, TRAC Center (June 2, 1-9 p.m.).

Bill Chapman, President and CEO for Millennium Bulk Terminals notes:

"Here at Millennium Bulk Terminals - Longview, our commitment to the public process began over four years ago when we started the permitting process. We remain ready to provide family-wage jobs, help jumpstart the flagging Cowlitz County economy and build a port that meets or exceeds the state's strict environment standards. This announcement of the public meetings brings us another step closer to making this vital project, which will generate millions in tax dollars, a reality. We expect a robust discussion of the findings during the public comment period and have confidence in the thoroughness of the analysis."

Millennium Bulk Terminals-Longview is an operating bulk materials port on the Columbia River, which was initially home to an aluminum smelter built in 1941. Millennium is committed to the environmental clean-up of this 1940's era industrial site and redeveloping this facility into a vibrant, world-class port.

PNWA Members with questions about the project or process should contact Peter Bennett, Vice President, Business Development - Bulk Products
p.bennett@millenniumbulkterminals.com 360-636-8267.

Corps Announces Spring Navigation Meeting, to include updates on extended lock closure

The Portland and Walla Walla Districts of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have announced the next joint navigation meeting, to take place on June 1 from 10am-3pm at the Port of Morrow's SAGE Center (101 Olson Road, Boardman, OR 97818). The meeting will provide an overview of the inland Columbia Snake River System projects, and will include a full briefing on the status of the upcoming extended lock closure. For more information, please contact one of the following Corps Representatives:

- Sheryl Carrubba at (503) 808-3721 sheryl.a.carrubba@usace.army.mil
- Jeanette Wilson at (509) 527-7113 jeanette.m.wilson@usace.army.mil

- Jeff Ament at (503) 808-4713 jeffrey.m.ament@usace.army.mil

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