



Nor'wester newsletter

Issue #844 | January 25, 2023

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Columbia Snake River Lock Maintenance Closure Schedule



Spring 2023 Maintenance Closure

The Portland and Walla Walla Districts anticipate Spring maintenance lock closure to begin on March 4, 2023.

- All locks on the Lower Columbia and Lower Snake Rivers are scheduled to close at 6:00 AM.

Re-opening:

The locks are scheduled to reopen as follows:

- March 18, 2023 - Bonneville, The Dalles, John Day, McNary, and Lower Monumental will reopen at 11:59 PM
- March 25, 2023 – Ice Harbor, Little Goose, and Lower Granite will reopen at 11:59 PM

2024 Extended Lock Maintenance Closure

- The 2024 Extended Lock Closure is anticipated to run from January 14, 2024, to March 29, 2024.

Corps Seeks Public Comment on WRDA 2022 Implementation Guidance



The Water Resources Development Act of 2022 ([WRDA](#)) was passed in late December. We previously [reported](#) on the regional projects and policies impacting our region that were included in WRDA 2022.

As the bill has become law, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) will hold a 60 day public comment period to seek input on the provisions that should have guidance issued, prioritization of which provisions should get guidance and feedback on how the guidance should be structured or specific items that should be included in the guidance language. The Corps will publish the [notice](#) in the Federal Register on January 20, 2023.

Three virtual stakeholder meetings have been scheduled for the following dates and times:

- Wednesday, February 15 from 11am to 1pm Pacific
- Wednesday, February 22 from 11am to 1pm Pacific
- Wednesday, March 1 from 11am to 1pm Pacific

To join the meetings during those dates and times, click [here](#).

To submit written comments, identify your comments in relation to “Docket ID No. COE-2023-0002” and choose one of the following options:

Online: Use the Federal eRulemaking Portal: [http:// www.regulations.gov/](http://www.regulations.gov/). To submit comments, follow the online instructions.

Email: Ensure “Docket ID No. COE-2023-0002” is in the subject line of your email and send the comments to WRDA2022@usace.army.mil.

Mail: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, ATTN: Ms. Amy Frantz, CEW-P, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 3F91, 441 G St NW, Washington, DC 20314.

Corps to Hold Virtual Briefing on Infrastructure Funding



Corps Water Infrastructure Financing Program

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) will be holding a virtual briefing to discuss the Corps Water Infrastructure Financing Program (CWIFP). This is the new Federal loan program for financing projects to maintain, upgrade, and repair dam infrastructure.

Borrowers can seek up to \$7.5m in credit assistance and the Corps will accept loan applications starting in Spring 2023. The program offers benefits including:

- Low Interest rates comparable to U.S. Treasury rates and are not impacted by borrower credit or loan structure
- No interest rate risk – rates are locked at the loan’s closing and fixed for the life of the loan
- Cash when needed – interest only accrues once funds have been disbursed
- Long and flexible repayment schedules allow repayments to grow over time with terms up to 35 years after project completion, making debt service more affordable
- No prepayment penalty – loans can be prepaid at any time without penalty

To learn more about the CWIFP, click [here](#).

USACE would like to extend you an invitation to attend one of two virtual information sessions to familiarize you with the benefits of the program. Each virtual information session will cover the same material. The sessions are currently scheduled for Wednesday, February 8 and Wednesday, March 1.

Please complete one of the following two registration forms to receive your virtual outreach session invite:

[Wednesday, February 8 - 1PM EST: USACE Corps Water Infrastructure Financing Program Virtual Information Session #1 Registration Form](#)

[Wednesday, March 1 - 1PM EST: USACE Corps Water Infrastructure Financing Program Virtual Information Session #2 Registration Form](#)

Once your registration form is completed, you will receive a webinar confirmation and the outreach session link will appear on your calendar. Please feel free to forward the invite to others that may benefit from the presentation as well. We look forward to your attendance!

**MARAD NOFOs: FY23 Port Infrastructure Development Program
and the Small Shipyard Grant Program Announced**



The U.S. Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration (MARAD) has released the short form Notice of Funding Opportunity for the **FY23 Port Infrastructure Development Grant**.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act authorized and appropriated \$450 million for the FY 2023 Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP). The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 appropriated an additional \$212,203,512 for the FY 2023 PIDP. Therefore a **total of \$662,203,512** is available for the **FY 2023 PIDP**.

"The purpose of the PIDP is to improve the safety, efficiency, or reliability of the movement of goods through ports and intermodal connections to ports. MARAD will evaluate projects that meet the purpose of the PIDP based on their alignment with the following statutory merit criteria: Achieving Safety, Efficiency, or Reliability Improvements; Supporting Economic Vitality; Leveraging Federal Funding; and Port Resilience. MARAD will also consider the extent to which applications align with the selection considerations of Climate Change and Sustainability, Equity and Justice, and Workforce Development, Job Quality, and Wealth Creation and may give priority to those projects that align well when selecting among highly-rated applications. Projects will also be evaluated for project readiness and domestic preference compliance."

Applications must be submitted to Grants.gov by 11:59 p.m. E.D.T. on April 28, 2023. See [link](#).

If you would like more information on the **FY23 Port Infrastructure Development Program's** Notice of Funding Opportunity, please click [here](#).

MARAD has also announced the availability of **\$20,800,000** in federal **FY23 funding for the Small Shipyard Grant Program**.

"The purpose of the Small Shipyard Grant Program is to foster efficiency, competitive operations, and quality ship construction, repair, and reconfiguration in small shipyards across the United States, in addition to fostering employee skills and enhanced productivity related to shipbuilding, ship repair, and associated industries. Award recipients will be expected to comply with the performance goals and reporting requirements as outlined in the executed grant agreement."

Grants are capped at 75 percent of the project's estimated cost and are available to facilities with fewer than 1,200 production employees.

Historically, the program has selected roughly 15 to 30 applications to receive funding, and the average grant amount has been approximately \$1 million.

Applications must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. E.S.T. on February 27, 2023, and submitted electronically using Grants.gov (<https://www.grants.gov>).

If you would like more information on the **FY23 Small Shipyard Grant Program's** Notice of Funding Opportunity, click [here](#).

Register now!

**PNWA 2023 Mission to
Washington
March 19-23
*The Mayflower Hotel***



Registration is now open for our first *in-person* Mission to Washington in three years! The [PNWA Mission to Washington](#) is our signature event, and your participation is more important than ever before as we work to highlight our Northwest priorities in the nation's capital. We'll meet with agency leaders, industry insiders, colleagues from the Hill and the entire Northwest Congressional delegation to provide our input on 2023's key policy and project priorities. This event is the perfect time to highlight the PNWA agenda for our national colleagues, and deliver your own messages from the Northwest.

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