

Nor'wester newsletter

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 House Appropriations Committee - FY24 Energy & Water Bill Released

CORRECTION: House Appropriations Committee FY24 Energy & Water Bill

The House Appropriations Committee <u>released</u> their proposed FY2024 Energy & Water Appropriations bill June 14 and it will be marked up today. The mark up hearing will be streamed on the Committee's <u>website</u>. The bill text provides the top line numbers for the programs, but did not include tables outlining the allocation of funds for each program. Community project funding (earmarks) is mentioned in the bill <u>summary</u> but the <u>text</u> provided also does not specify which projects are included.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Funding:

The Energy and Water Appropriations bill funds the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, as well as the Department of Energy, Bureau of Reclamation and several other independent federal agencies.

For FY2024, the House Appropriations Committee is proposing \$9.57 billion in funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and allocated in the following accounts:

- Investigations \$136.087 million
- Construction \$2.890 billion
- Operations and Maintenance \$5.497 billion
- Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund \$2.771 billion
- Donor and Energy Transfer Ports Section 2106(c) \$58 million
- Regulatory \$218 million

PNWA continues to advocate for additional spending pots of discretionary funding for the Corps. We advocate for those funds to be allocated to our members' projects through the workplan process after appropriations have been completed. PNWA staff will continue to monitor the appropriations process and share information as it becomes available.

To read the text of the bill, click here. To read the bill summary, click <a href=here.

If Congress does not complete their work on FY2024 appropriations by September 30, 2023, a continuing resolution (CR) will be needed to prevent a government shutdown. The recently passed budget deal (Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023) raised the

borrowing limit to avoid breaching the debt ceiling. That legislation also contained a provision that triggers an automatic across the board 1% cut to both defense and nondefense spending if Congress does not enact appropriations on or after January 1, **2024 (not September 30 as previously reported)**. Medicare and Social Security programs are exempt from the automatic cut. As we understand it, the Office of Management and Budget would not begin implementing cuts until after April 30, 2024. PNWA staff are still hearing that it is not likely Congress will pass all 12 appropriations bills by September 30 and a CR will be needed in order to avoid a government shutdown.

For more information, contact <u>Dena Horton</u>.

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