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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completes initiative to designate a Lead District for the Regulatory Program in each state

Washington (November 24, 2004) – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced today the completion of an initiative to designate a Lead District for Regulatory Program administration in each of the 18 states that have multiple USACE districts with regulatory responsibilities.

Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works John Paul Woodley, Jr., made the first formal announcement of the Lead District initiative at a Sept. 17 Denver press conference when he announced that USACE's Albuquerque District has been designated the Lead District for administration of the Regulatory Program in Colorado.

In making the Albuquerque announcement, Woodley said, "Designation of a Lead District for the Regulatory Program in each of the 18 states served by multiple Corps districts will put these states on par with the 32 states whose Regulatory Programs are currently administered by a single district."

"Lead District designation will strengthen Corps-state partnerships, enhance Regulatory Program efficiency and resolve program inconsistencies within states," Woodley added.

The 18 states and their designated USACE Lead Districts are:

- Alabama Mobile District
- Arkansas Little Rock District
- California Sacramento District
- Colorado Albuquerque District
- Illinois Rock Island District
- Indiana Louisville District
- Kansas Kansas City District
- Kentucky Louisville District
- Louisiana New Orleans District
- Mississippi Vicksburg District
- Missouri Kansas City District
- New Jersey Philadelphia District

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- New York New York District
- Ohio Huntington District
- Pennsylvania Baltimore District
- Tennessee Nashville District
- Texas Galveston District
- West Virginia Huntington District

Maj. Gen. Don T. Riley, USACE's director of Civil Works, in stressing the importance of Corps and state relationships, said, "The Corps and states are partners in the effort to develop streamlined processes and procedures that will lead to more efficient statewide regulation of aquatic resource impacts and increased compliance.

"This initiative will assure greater Regulatory Program consistency and efficiency through the stewardship of the designated Lead District."

Lead districts are responsible for:

- Consistent, statewide implementation of Regulatory Program technical and policy guidance.
- Development and coordination of Corps-State strategies for program efficiencies.
- Development and coordination of nationwide general permits regional (statewide) conditions, as appropriate.
- Establishment of a single point of contact for the state (or multiple contacts for various state agencies) to address questions and direct them to the responsible Corps officials and/or appropriate districts.
- Develop/maintain/coordinate a statewide coordination list of Federal, state and tribal agency representatives and other appropriate public entities to coordinate lead district, statewide initiatives.

USACE coordinated the Lead District initiative through the governor's office in each of the 18 states prior to formally designating the Lead District. Comments were sought from state development, transportation and natural resource management agencies.