



REVIEW PLAN

Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa River Basin

WATER CONTROL MANUAL and ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

MOBILE DISTRICT

JULY 2010

REVIEW PLAN

Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa River Basin

Water Control Manual Update and Environmental Impact Statement

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FIGURE

<u>FIGURE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
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REVIEW PLAN

Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa River Basin

Water Control Manual and Environmental Impact Statement

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Review Plan (RP) is to describe the technical review process for the update of the Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa (ACT) River Basin Water Control Manual (WCM), attendant Water Control Manual appendices, and the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Accompanying the draft EIS for review will be the draft Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report and Biological Opinion. This RP describes the scope and execution of anticipated review for the ACT WCM update. All technical review processes and necessary funding are solely the responsibility of the Federal Government. Like the Project Management Plan (PMP), the RP is a living document and may change as the project progresses.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) guidance for conducting the technical review process is contained in EC 1165-2-209, Civil Works Review Policy, dated 31 Jan 2010. The independent review process outlined in EC 1165-2-209 provides the procedures for ensuring the quality and credibility of Corps decision documents through an independent review process. It complies with Section 515 of Public Law 106-554 (referred to as the “Information Quality Act”); and the Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review by the Office of Management and Budget (referred to as the “OMB Peer Review Bulletin”). It also provides guidance for the implementation of Section 2034 of WRDA 2007 (P.L. 110-114). This Circular presents a framework for establishing the appropriate level and independence of review and detailed requirements for review documentation and dissemination.

2. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT AREA

The ACT Basin originates just north of the Tennessee-Georgia border, extends into central north Georgia, crosses the Georgia-Alabama state line into north Alabama, and continues across central and south Alabama before terminating in Mobile Bay. The basin covers 32 counties in Alabama, 18 counties in Georgia, and two counties in Tennessee. The basin drains 22,800 square miles, extending a distance of approximately 320 miles. The Corps owns and maintains five projects in the basin and the Alabama Power Company owns and maintains nine projects (Figure 1). Only four of Alabama Power Company projects are included in this WCM update.

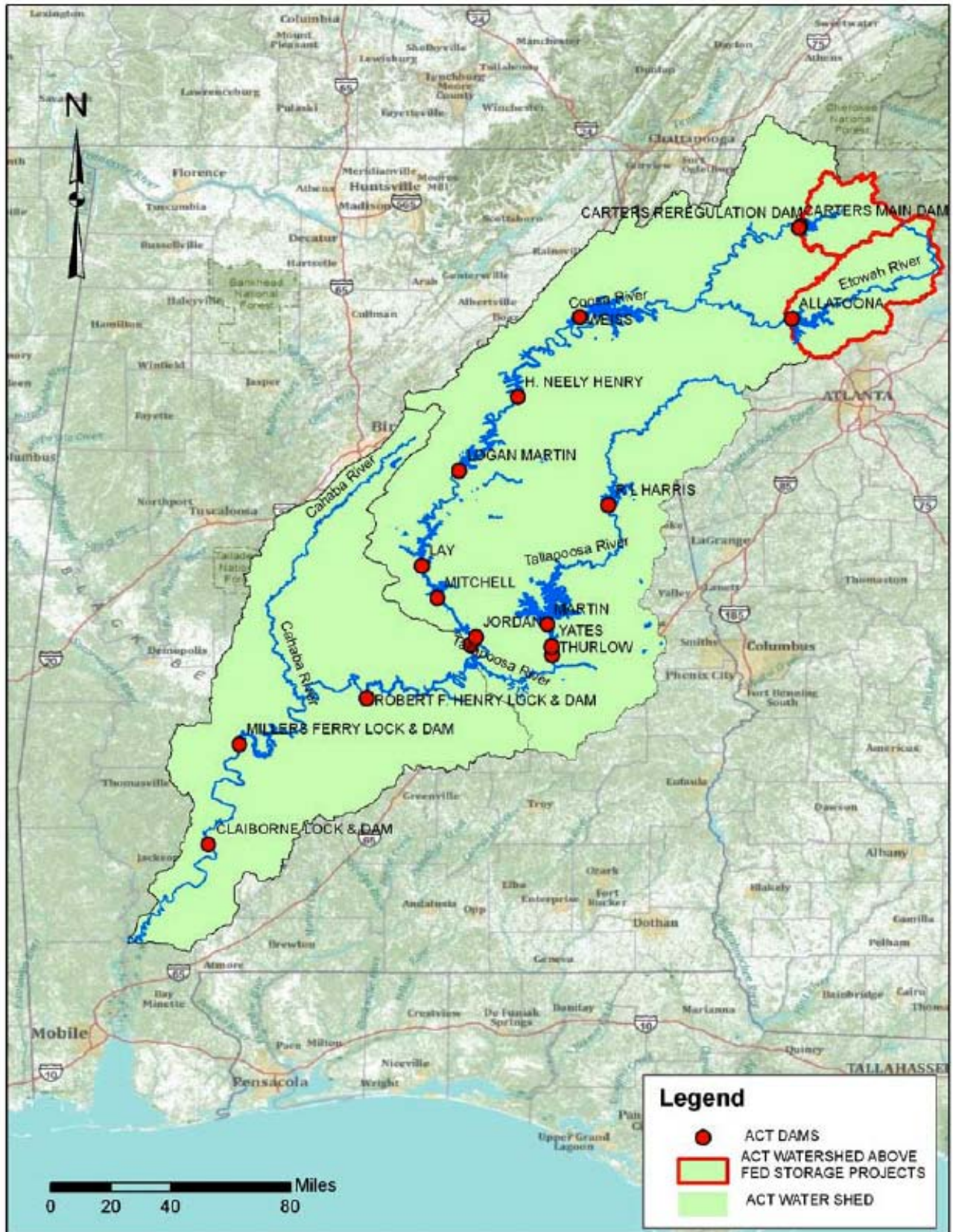


FIGURE 1. LOCATION MAP

In the ACT Basin, there are several pieces of authorizing legislation. Section 2 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1945 authorized the initial and ultimate development of the Alabama-Coosa River for navigation, flood control, power development, and other purposes. The Rivers and Harbors Act of 1945 was modified by Public Law 83-436, to authorize private interests (Alabama Power Company) to construct a series of dams on the Coosa River for the purpose of generating hydropower and providing flood control subject to licensing requirements under the Federal Power Act.

3. BACKGROUND

The Corps, Mobile District, operates several Federal reservoir projects located in the Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa (ACT) River Basin. These are multi-purpose projects for which operations have been congressionally authorized either through the original project authorizations, or by subsequent congressional authorizations that apply generally to all Corps reservoir projects. In 1989, reallocation studies were conducted for Lake Allatoona and Carters Lake in the ACT Basin to satisfy water supply needs in the Cities of Cartersville and Chatsworth, Georgia. A draft reallocation report issued in 1989 proposed to reallocate 7,200 acre-feet from Carters Lake to supply a 14-million gallons per day (MGD) withdrawal from the lake by the City of Chatsworth and 34,700 acre-feet from Lake Allatoona to satisfy a 38 MGD withdrawal from the lake by the City of Cartersville.

The proposals by the Corps to reallocate storage to municipal and industrial (M&I) water supply at the two reservoirs in the ACT River Basin (Allatoona and Carters) and by the State of Georgia to develop a regional reservoir near the Alabama state line (West Georgia Regional Reservoir) led to the State of Alabama filing a lawsuit against the Corps in June 1990 to halt the proposed actions. To address the issues, the Governors of Alabama, Florida and Georgia and the Assistant Secretary of the Army Civil Works (ASA (CW)) signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on 3 January 1992, which led to a comprehensive study of the water resources of the ACT and ACF Basins conducted in partnership among the States and the Corps to develop the needed water resources data and to investigate the feasibility of implementing an interstate coordination mechanism for resolving water resources issues in the ACT Basin. This study was conducted under a consensus basis, with study support provided by the Corps, Mobile District. The MOA also contained a “live and let live” provision for accommodating increased water needs in the ACT Basin while the ACT/ACF Comprehensive Study and water negotiations were conducted. This provision permitted existing water users to increase water withdrawal amounts to meet reasonable needs over the period of time necessary for the States to negotiate a solution to the water issues.

Interstate water compacts were identified by the Comprehensive Study partners as the preferred coordination mechanism and were approved for both the ACT and ACF Basins by the State legislatures, ratified by Congress and signed into law by the President on 20 November 1997 (P.L. 105-105 for the ACT River Basin Compact). The interstate water compacts goal was that the States develop an allocation formula for equitably apportioning the surface waters for each basin. Initially, the deadline for reaching agreement on the water allocation formulas was 31 December 1998. If an agreement was not reached by the established deadline, the Compacts, by law, would automatically expire. The Compacts established Commissions for each basin

composed of a voting Commissioner from each State and a non-voting Federal Commissioner. The Compacts provided that once the States reached an agreement, the Federal Commissioner representing Federal interests, would have 255 days to concur or non-concur with the formulas. By mutual agreement and in accordance with the provisions of the Compacts, the State Commissioners extended the deadline for reaching agreement on allocation formulas numerous times, but the States were unable to negotiate water allocation formulas and the ACT Compact was allowed to expire in July 2004.

In March 2006, the Northern District Alabama Court ordered the case into mediation and implements a stay until August 31, 2006. The mediation resulted in no agreement being reached. Due to the stated inability for progress, the court-ordered the Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa (ACT) River Basin mediation process was halted on 26 September 2007. During the mediation process, actions to update the manuals had been suspended to allow the States of Alabama and Georgia to negotiate water rights issues.

On 18 October 2007, the Secretary of the Army (Pete Geren) directed the Corps to update the water control plans and manuals for the ACT River Basin in Alabama and Georgia. Mobile District published the Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS in the Federal Register on 9 November 2007. In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), public scoping meetings and workshops were held in September/October of 2008 with Federal, State, and local agencies and officials, affected Indian tribes, other interested parties and the public to identify any significant issues and data gaps, focus on the alternatives to be evaluated, and to identify any appropriate updated tools to assist in evaluation of the alternatives and analysis of impacts. Additional meetings and workshops will be held once the draft WCM, appendices, and the draft EIS are completed.

4. LEVELS OF REVIEW

This RP describes the levels of review and the anticipated review process for the various documents to be produced: computations of reservoir critical yield, the update of the ACT Basin WCM, the WCM appendices, and the accompanying basin-wide EIS. This RP is a component of the Project Management Plan (PMP). All levels of review are included in this RP: District Quality Control (DQC), Agency Technical Review (ATR), Independent External Peer Review (IEPR), as well as the Policy and Legal Review.

5. DISTRICT QUALITY CONTROL

All documents to be produced will undergo District Quality Control (DQC). DQC will be managed from within the Mobile District in accordance with EC 1165-2-209 as reflected in the PMP. The DQC technical review team will be comprised of Mobile District staff members who, to the fullest extent practicable, will not have produced the documents to be reviewed. The DQC review team will be responsible for performing a technical review of the computations of reservoir critical yield, ACT WCM, WCM appendices, and EIS. The DQC review will be completed prior to submitting documents for ATR and IEPR. Duties of the DQC team include the following:

- 1) Reviewing report contents for compliance with established principles and procedures, using clearly justified and valid assumptions,
- 2) Reviewing methods and procedures used to determine appropriateness, correctness and reasonableness of results; and
- 3) Providing review team leader with documentation of comments, issues, and decisions arising out of the DQC review. Comments and resolutions will be documented in a MS Word document or by using DrChecks.
- 4) Capturing public input at scoping and public meetings. Public comments are solicited and accepted by multiple means: United States Postal Service, email, website, fax, or at the public and scoping meetings.

6. AGENCY TECHNICAL REVIEW

All documents produced as part of this effort will undergo Agency Technical Review (ATR) to ensure “[...] the quality and credibility of Corps decision documents through an independent review process.” The ATR will assess whether the analyses presented are technically correct and comply with published Corps guidance, and that the document explains the analyses and the results in a reasonably clear manner for the public and decision makers.

The Corps will manage the ATR internally and it will be conducted by individuals and organizations within the Corps that are separate and independent from those in Mobile District that accomplished the work. The ATR will be managed by the Water Management and Reallocation Studies Planning Center of Expertise (WMRS-PCX) in accordance with EC 1165-2-209, Appendices C and D, respectively. The WMRS-PCX is located in the Corps Southwestern Division office. DrChecks review software will be used to document all ATR comments, responses and associated resolutions accomplished throughout the review process. The documents to be reviewed are the WCM, the WCM appendices (9), and the EIS. Interim work products, including the draft report on the computation of critical yield of the Federal reservoirs in the ACT Basin, will be individually subject to ATR, as well as the overall product and the EIS.

a) **Number of Reviewers.** The number of reviewers shall vary. Approximately 10 reviewers would be anticipated for ATR, which would at least be equivalent to the number of DQC reviewers. The WMRS-PCX will ultimately determine the number of reviewers.

b) **Disciplines Required for Review.** At a minimum, the following disciplines should be represented on the ATR team:

Discipline	Required Expertise
Hydrology & Hydraulics	Team member(s) should have extensive knowledge in the field of large-river hydrology & hydraulics. The team member should also have a thorough understanding of open channel dynamics, application of detention/retention basins, flood routing, and watershed hydrology. The team member should have an understanding of computer modeling techniques that will be used for this project (HEC-ResSim, and HEC-5Q).
Environmental	Team member(s) should have extensive knowledge of the integration of environmental evaluation and compliance requirements, pursuant to national environmental statutes (NEPA), applicable executive orders and other Federal planning requirements, into the planning of Civil Works comprehensive plans and implementation projects.
Socioeconomics	The team member(s) should have an understanding of hydrologic data to recognize sufficiency and appropriate utilization in alternative evaluation, including risk assessment. The team member should have an understanding of economic related requirements as depicted in EM 1110-2-1619 and ER1105-2-101. The team member should also have a knowledge of Corps accepted benefits and costs utilized in flood risk management analysis.
Plan Formulation	Team member(s) should be familiar with water management and reallocation projects and be experienced in general planning policy and guidance.

7. INDEPENDENT EXTERNAL PEER REVIEW

Independent External Peer Review (IEPR) will be in keeping with the principle that the review should be scalable to the work products being reviewed. IEPR will be conducted for the following documents: draft ACT Basin WCM, draft WCM appendices, and draft EIS. The vertical team, involving the Mobile District, South Atlantic Division (SAD), and Headquarters U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (HQUSACE) members, has determined that a critical examination by a qualified team outside the Corps is warranted. The IEPR will be coordinated by the WMRS-PCX and managed by an Eligible Outside Organization (OEO) external to the Corps. IEPR panels shall evaluate whether the interpretations of analysis and conclusions based on analysis are reasonable. As part of the IEPR, the proposed models and methodology for critical yield computations and approaches contained in the engineering guidance concerning critical yield will be reviewed as a part of the ACT WCM update.

To provide effective review, in terms of both usefulness of results and credibility, the review panels will be given the flexibility to bring important issues to the attention of decision makers; however, review panels will be instructed to not make a recommendation on whether a particular alternative should be implemented, as the Commander, SAD is responsible for the final decision on approval of the updated ACT Basin WCM. IEPR panel members are not expected to be knowledgeable of Army and administration policies, nor are they expected to address such concerns. IEPR panels will accomplish a review that covers all the previously listed documents and will address all the underlying engineering, economics, and environmental work conducted during the process. Additionally, the documents will be made available to the public for comment at the same time the IEPR is conducted. The WMRS-PCX shall make the final determination for the needed number of reviewers for the IEPR through coordination with the selected OEO. DrChecks review software will be used to document all IEPR comments, responses and associated resolutions accomplished throughout the review process.

a) **Disciplines Required for Review.** The number of panel members shall vary. At a minimum, the following disciplines should be represented on the IEPR team:

Discipline	Required Expertise
Hydrology & Hydraulics	Panel member(s) should have extensive knowledge in the field of large-river hydrology & hydraulics. The team member should also have a thorough understanding of open channel dynamics, application of detention/retention basins, flood routing, and watershed hydrology. The team member should have an understanding of computer modeling techniques that will be used for this project (HEC-ResSim, and HEC-5Q).
Environmental	Panel member(s) should have extensive knowledge of the integration of environmental evaluation and compliance requirements, pursuant to national environmental statutes (NEPA), applicable executive orders and other Federal planning requirements, into the planning of Civil Works comprehensive plans and implementation projects.
Socioeconomics	Panel member(s) should have an understanding of hydrologic data to recognize sufficiency and appropriate utilization in alternative evaluation, including risk assessment. The team member should have an understanding of economic related requirements as depicted in EM 1110-2-1619 and ER1105-2-101. The team member should also have a knowledge of Corps accepted benefits and costs utilized in flood risk management analysis.
Plan Formulation	Panel member(s) should be familiar with water management and reallocation projects and be experienced in general planning policy and guidance.

8. POLICY AND LEGAL COMPLIANCE REVIEW

Decision documents will be reviewed throughout the process for their compliance with law and policy. When policy and/or legal concerns arise during DQC or ATR that are not readily and mutually resolved by the Product Delivery Team (PDT) and the reviewers, Mobile District will seek issue resolution support from the MSC and HQUSACE in accordance with the procedures outlined in ER 1105-2-100, Appendix H, Policy Compliance Review and Approval of Decision Documents. The Mobile District Office of Counsel is responsible for the legal review of each decision document and for signing a certification of legal sufficiency.

9. MODEL CERTIFICATION AND APPROVAL

EC 1105-2-407, Planning Models Improvement Program: Model Certification, states that models used for Planning studies must be approved and certified for use. Economic, environmental, and engineering software will be used. All products will undergo ATR and IEPR. The economic software to be used is a commercial model produced by the Minnesota IMPLAN Group called the Impact Analysis for Planning (IMPLAN) and a model produced by the Institute for Water Resources (IWR) called IWR-Main. IMPLAN is used to perform an economic impact analysis while IWR-Main is used to analyze water demands and assess the costs and benefits associated with the implementation of a particular alternative or alternatives. The IMPLAN model will require approval for use by the Deep Draft Navigation PCX.

IWR-Main is in the process of certification for use by IWR. HQUSACE is of the opinion that IWR-Main, as now owned and operated by a private vendor, should be responsible for demonstrating compliance with USACE model quality assurance (QA) requirements. The WMRS- PCX has discussed the USACE model QA requirements with the model vendor and is awaiting additional information. The PDT should be prepared to resource quality assurance efforts for the application of IWR-MAIN for this project

The engineering software used will be produced by the Hydrologic Engineering Center (HEC): HEC-ResSim and HEC-5Q. The HEC-ResSim model software will be used to simulate the reservoir system operations for various conditions. HEC-5Q is a water quality model. These models are accepted for use by the Corps of Engineers Engineering and Construction Communities of Practice; therefore, none will be subject to the Planning certification process. However, the application of the models and the data used by them will be reviewed as part of both the ATR and IEPR. See Engineering and Construction Bulletin Number 2007-6 dated April 2007 for additional detail on engineering model certification.

The environmental software to be used is a commercial model produced by the Nature Conservancy called the Indicators of Hydrologic Alteration (IHA). The IHA model (Version 7.1) will be used for the assessment of biological impacts and to statistically analyze ecologically relevant streamflow data. The IHA model will require certification or approval for use by the National Ecosystem Planning Center of Expertise (Eco-PCX). The IHA model is listed as a preferred model by the Environmental Engineering and Water Quality sub-community of practice (CoP) under the Science and Engineering Technology (SET) initiative for engineering models. The PCXs are coordinating with the Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) on models such as this that link engineering analyses, such as flow-duration

calculations, to habitat or biomass outputs. On similar models, the Eco-PCX is currently taking the approach of developing specific requirements for the ATR of such models. The WMRS-PCX will continue to work with the Eco-PCX and ERDC to better define those requirements. The PDT should be prepared to resource quality assurance efforts for the application of the IHA model in this study.

The PDT will coordinate with the WMRS-PCX to ensure that appropriate quality assurance is provided for the planning models as discussed above. The WMRS-PCX will work with the PDT to develop specific model review plans.

10. REVIEW SCHEDULE AND COSTS

The cost for ATR is estimated to be about \$100,000. IEPR is estimated to cost approximately \$200,000. DQC, ATR and IEPR are to be 100 percent federally funded actions. The documents to be reviewed and scheduled dates for review are as follows:

Milestone	Review	Schedule Dates
Draft Critical Yield Computations	DQC	December 2009 - January 2010
Draft Critical Yield Computations	ATR	February 2010
Draft ACT Basin WCM	DQC	November 2010 – January 2011
Draft WCM Appendices	DQC	November 2010 – January 2011
Draft Environmental Impact Statement	DQC	November 2010 – January 2011
Draft ACT Basin WCM	ATR	February 2011 – May 2011
Draft WCM Appendices	ATR	February 2011 – May 2011
Draft Environmental Impact Statement	ATR	February 2011 – May 2011
Draft ACT Basin WCM	IEPR	August 2011 – October 2011
Draft WCM Appendices	IEPR	August 2011 – October 2011
Draft Environmental Impact Statement	IEPR	August 2011 – October 2011
Final ACT Basin WCM	ATR	November 2011 – January 2012
Final WCM Appendices	ATR	November 2011 – January 2012
Final Environmental Impact Statement	ATR	November 2011 – January 2012

11. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public access to the RP will be possible by the Mobile District website link at <http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/>. Public review of the RP can begin as soon as it is reviewed by the WMRS-PCX, approved by the MSC Commander and posted by the Mobile District. Public comments on the RP will be available to the review team. Public and interagency review for the WCM documents will be conducted in accordance with NEPA, as well as the provisions of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 2000, and as outlined in ER 1105-2-100.

As such the review plan will be available through all public and agency scoping and other processes for the project. Public input from the NEPA workshops and the public meetings will be available to the ATR members and to the IEPR panel to ensure that public comments have been considered in the development of reviews and final reports. Public comments will be solicited and accepted by multiple means: United States Postal Service, email, website, fax, or at the public and scoping meetings.

12. PCX COORDINATION

Review plans for decision documents and supporting analyses outlined in EC 1165-2-209 were coordinated with the WMRS-PCX based on the documents to be reviewed.

13. MAJOR SUBORDINATE COMMAND APPROVAL

The Major Subordinate Command (MSC), located at SAD, is responsible for approving the review plan as prepared by the Mobile District. Approval is provided by the MSC Commander. The Commander's approval should reflect vertical team input (involving district, MSC, PCX, and HQUSACE members) as to the appropriate scope and level of review for the decision document. Like the PMP, the review plan is a living document and may change as the project progresses. Changes to the review plan should be approved by following the process used for initially approving the plan. In all cases the MSC will review decisions on the level of review and any changes made in updates to the project.

14. REFERENCES

The RP has been developed in accordance with the following:

- Engineering Circular (EC) 1165-2-209, CIVIL WORKS REVIEW POLICY, 31 Jan 2010
- EC 1105-2-410, Review of Decision Documents, 22 Aug 2008
- EC 1105-2-407, Planning Models Improvement Program: Model Certification, 31 May 2005
- Engineering Regulation (ER) 1110-2-12, Quality Management, 30 Sep 2006
- ACT WCM Project Management Plan
- OMB Peer Review Bulletin M-05-03, 16 Dec 2004

ATTACHMENT 1 – Team Rosters

Table 1 – Product Delivery Team Disciplines and Responsible Office

Discipline (POC)	Office/Agency
Executive Office	
Chief of Staff	USACE-SAM
Engineering	
Hydraulics/Modeling	USACE-SAM-EN-H
Hydraulics	USACE-SAM-EN-HH
Hydraulics/Modeling	CEIWR-HEC-WR
Hydraulics/Modeling	CEIWR-HEC-HH
Water Management	USACE-SAM-EN-H
Water Management	USACE-SAM-EN-HW
Water Management	USACE-SAM-EN-HW
Water Management	USACE-SAM-EN-HW
Project Architect Engineer (PAE)	USACE-SAM-EN-HH
Survey	USACE-SAM-EN
A-E Contracts	USACE-SAM-IM-IS
GIS	USACE-SAM-EN-HW
GIS	USACE-SAM-OP-J
Technical Support	CDM
Operations	
Hydropower	CESAM-OP-TH
Navigation	CESAM-OP-TN
Lower AL Lakes, AL Riv	
Carters Lake	CESAM-OP-CA
Lake Allatoona	CESAM-OP-SL
Natural Resources	CESAM-OP-TR
Planning	
Environmental	USACE-SAM-PD-EI
Environmental	USACE-SAM-PD-EI
Cultural Resources	USACE-SAM-PD-EI
Socio-Economics	USACE-SAM-PD-FE
Plan Formulation/ Project Manager	USACE-SAM-PD-FP
Office of Counsel	
Lead Counsel	USACE-SAM-OC
Assistant Counsel	USACE-SAM-OC
Assistant Counsel	USACE-SAM-OC
Real Estate	USACE-SAM-RE-P
Public Affairs Office	USACE-SAM-PA
	USACE-SAM-PA

Table 2 – Agency Technical Review Team Disciplines and Responsible Office

Discipline (POC)	Office/Agency
WMRS-PCX (PCX Manager/Lead)	USACE-SWD
ATR Lead	USACE-SWT
Hydraulics and Hydrology	USACE-SWD
NEPA/Environmental Lead	USACE-SWT
NEPA/EIS	USACE-SWT
Economics/EIS	USACE-SWD
Public Involvement and Social/EIS	USACE-SWT
Cultural Resources/EIS	USACE
Water Supply Storage/EIS Impacts	USACE-SWT
Operations/Recreation/Shoreline/EIS Impacts	USACE-SWT

Table 3 – Independent External Peer Review Disciplines and Responsible Office

Discipline (POC)	Office/Agency
WMRS-PCX (IEPR Coordination)	USACE-SWD
Hydraulics and Hydrology	TBD
NEPA/Environmental Lead	TBD
Economics/EIS	TBD
Public Involvement and Social/EIS	TBD
Cultural Resources/EIS	TBD
Water Supply Storage	TBD

ATTACHMENT 2 – Acronyms and Abbreviations

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACT	Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa
ACF	Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint
ATR	Agency Technical Review
CoP	Community of Practice
CORPS	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
DQC	District Quality Control
DX	Directory of Expertise
EC	Engineer Circular
ECB	Engineering and Construction Bulletin
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
ERDC	Engineer Research and Development Center
ER	Engineer Regulation
HEC	Hydrologic Engineering Center
HQUSACE	Headquarters U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
IEPR	Independent External Peer Review
IHA	Indicators of Hydrologic Alteration
IMPLAN	Impact Analysis for Planning
MSC	Major Subordinate Command
MGD	Million Gallons per Day
M&I	Municipal and Industrial
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
OEO	Eligible Outside Organization
PCX	Planning Center of Expertise
PDT	Product Delivery Team
PM	Project Manager
PMP	Project Management Plan
RP	Review Plan
RTS	Regional Technical Specialist
SAD	South Atlantic Division
SET	Science and Engineering Technology
WCM	Water Control Manual
WMRS-PCX	Water Management and Reallocation Studies Planning Center of Expertise
WRDA	Water Resources Development Act

ATTACHMENT 3 – SAD Approval Memorandum



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SOUTH ATLANTIC DIVISION, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
ROOM 9M15, 60 FORSYTH ST., S.W.
ATLANTA GA 30303-8801

CESAD-PDS-P

30 June 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR Commander, Mobile District (Mr. Curtis Flakes/CESAM-PD)

SUBJECT: Approval of the Review Plan (RP) for Alabama Coosa Tallapoosa (ACT) River Basin Water Control Manual Update and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), 12 May 2010

1. References:

a. Memorandum, CESAM-PD-FP, 12 May 2010, subject: Review Plan (RP) for the Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa (ACT) River Basin Water Control Manual Update and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

b. EC 1165-2-209, Civil Works Review Policy, 31 January 2010.

c. Memorandum, CECW-CP, 30 March 2007, subject: Peer Review Process.

d. Supplemental information for the "Peer Review Process" memorandum, March 2007.

2. In accordance with EC 1165-2-209, Civil Works Review Policy, the Review Plan (RP) for the Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa (ACT) River Basin Water Control Manual Update and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been coordinated with and concurred on by National Water Management and Reallocation Studies Planning Center of Expertise (WMRS-PCX) and reviewed by this office and is approved.

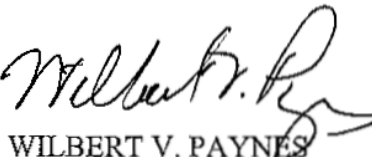
3. We concur with the conclusion that independent external peer review (IEPR) of this project is required due the requirement for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Other requirements that could lead to a report requiring IEPR are: (1) novel subject matter likely be produced by the report, (2) the report or project deals with controversial subject matter to include but not limited to environmental impacts associated with improvements in the project area, (3) subject matter in the report or on the project would be considered precedent-setting, (4) interagency interest is significant, and (5) there are significant environmental or social effects to the nation. The PRP complies with all applicable policy and provides for adequate agency technical review (ATR) of the plan formulation, engineering, and environmental analyses, and other aspects of the plan development. Non-substantive changes to this PRP do not require further approval.

CESAD-PDS-P

30 June 2010

SUBJECT: Approval of the Review Plan (RP) for Alabama Coosa Tallapoosa (ACT) River Basin Water Control Manual Update and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), 12 May 2010

4. Due to the unique nature of this effort, as the study moves forward, the district is directed to coordinate ATR team member selection with SAD staff. The District should take steps to post the PRP and a copy of this approval memorandum to the SAM District public internet website and provide a link to the WMRS-PCX for their use. Before posting to the web site the names of Corps/Army employees should be removed in accordance with reference 1.d. above
5. The point of contact is Mr. Terry Stratton, CESAD-PDS-P, at (404) 562-5228.



WILBERT V. PAYNES
Chief, Planning and Policy
Community of Practice

CF:
Brad Hudgens (CESWD-PDS-P)