

CECW-EH  Regulation No. 1110-2-1400	Department of the Army U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Washington, DC 20314-1000	ER 1110-2-1400  30 September 1993
	Engineering and Design  RESERVOIR/WATER CONTROL CENTERS	
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## Engineering and Design RESERVOIR/WATER CONTROL CENTERS

### 1. Purpose

This regulation provides for the establishment of Reservoir/Water Control Centers (Centers) in the major subordinate commands (MSC), summarizes basic activities of the Centers, and describes the delegated responsibilities to the Centers for management activities.

### 2. Applicability

This regulation is applicable to all HQUSACE elements, MSCs, districts, laboratories, and field operating activities (FOA) having civil works responsibilities.

### 3. References

- a. AR 335-15, Management Information Control System.
- b. ER 10-1-3, Divisions and Districts.
- c. ER 1110-2-240, Water Control Management.
- d. ER 1110-2-241, Use of Storage Allocated for Flood Control and Navigation at Non-Corps Projects.
- e. EM 1110-2-3600, Management of Water Control Systems.

### 4. Discussion

Reservoir/Water Control Centers are included in the titles of optional branch level organizations for MSC as authorized in ER 10-1-3. Establishment of a Center

requires specific actions by the MSC and approval of the Commander, USACE. Centers have been approved in the Engineering Divisions of all MSC except CEPOD. CENAD is the only approved MSC that has not established a Center. Many of the Centers have been staffed and operated for several years. Present staffs of individual Centers range from 5 to 11 professional engineers, scientists, and technicians.

### 5. Activities of Reservoir/Water Control Centers

a. *Objectives.* The basic purpose of establishing Centers in the MSC is to improve capabilities of the Corps of Engineers to perform its Civil Works water control management mission. The purposes, specific objectives, and activities for each Center are described below.

b. *Management of water control activities.* Each Center is responsible for all water control activities in its MSC to achieve project purposes such as flood control, water quality control, water supply, irrigation, navigation, hydropower, recreation, and fish and wildlife, and to alleviate sediment and erosion problems. The full-time staffs of the Centers are responsible primarily for "management" of these activities, which requires expert knowledge of the engineering and scientific aspect of the work and water control management policies (see ER 1110-2-240 and ER 1110-2-241). Staffs will normally depend on other Hydrologic and Hydraulic elements to provide technical studies assistance to the Centers and to perform lengthy analysis and testing of operating plans. Staffs of the Centers will devote full-time to efficient management of water control activities, including interagency coordination, public involvement, public relations, and progressive improvement of water control technology. Other elements of MSC organizations also may be called upon to assist the Centers as warranted.

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This regulation supersedes ER 1110-2-1400, 24 April 1970.

*c. Scope of water control activities.* Each Center will be primarily responsible for initiation, leadership, and coordination of actions pertaining to the water control management of projects and will be supported by other elements as required to develop staff proposals for approval of the MSC Commander or by higher authority. Responsibilities of each Center will include necessary contacts, management actions, and technical consultations with representatives of Districts and others in performing these duties, in conformance with prevailing regulations and policies of HQUSACE and such special instructions as the MSC Commander deems appropriate.

*d. Supervision of water control activities.* Each MSC Commander is responsible for making appropriate arrangements to ensure that regulation of reservoirs and other water control facilities, over the full range of hydrologic conditions, conforms to provisions of approved water control plans. Under some circumstances, it is advantageous to delegate to District Commanders the responsibility for assembling and interpreting data affecting current activities, and for carrying out water control plans approved in advance, without Center participation in routine evaluations and activities. In other circumstances, centralization of flood and drought forecasting and project regulation by the Center will be advisable. A Guidance Memorandum (paragraph 8b) will be prepared for each Center describing in basic terms the degree of centralization proposed for the daily operations of MSC water control facilities. Centers will maintain close surveillance of conditions affecting water control requirements during actual events and will be prepared to participate in technical evaluations and judgment decisions when major problems are involved.

## 6. Delegation of Responsibilities

*a.* MSC Commanders are delegated primary responsibility for water control management within their respective areas and for technical evaluations and performance of activities associated therewith.

*b.* MSC Commanders are authorized to require the development of water control plans and manuals conforming to pertinent project authorizations and policies of HQUSACE and to approve field use of such plans and manuals in the regulation of reservoirs and other water control facilities under the direct supervision for the Corps of Engineers, subject to the provisions specified in this regulation. MSC Commanders are

responsible for reviewing and approving any deviations to the approved water control plan (this responsibility cannot be delegated below the MSC).

*c.* Authorizations, responsibilities, and procedures pertaining to the processing of regulations under Section 7 of the 1944 Flood Control Act, and other authorizations that require the Secretary of the Army to prescribe regulations for water control projects are defined in ER 1110-2-240 and ER 1110-2-241.

*d.* Within the general provisions of paragraphs 6.a and 6.b, responsibilities delegated to MSC Commanders will be described in additional detail in the Guidance Memorandum specified in paragraph 8b of this regulation. This Guidance Memorandum should include clarification as needed of special considerations and variations in the responsibilities of the specific MSC. The Guidance Memorandum, and CECW-E approvals thereof, should also identify any special responsibilities that are covered by instructions other than this regulation. Examples include certain international treaty activities and interregional arrangements.

## 7. HQUSACE Role in Water Control Activities

*a.* With the establishment of Centers, the Commander, USACE, has delegated to MSC Commanders a high degree of responsibility and authority for direct action with respect to all phases of water control management, including not only technical evaluations and field operations, but also a major role in the implementing policies and developing criteria and concepts that determine water control plans. Nevertheless, it is essential that a reasonable degree of consistency be maintained in basic policies and practices in the activities of the Centers. HQUSACE will develop the basic policies and review MSC interpretation of policy to maintain such consistency.

*b.* In accordance with delegations of responsibilities prescribed herein, Centers are expected to exercise initiative and leadership in all phases of water control activities. HQUSACE elements will be concerned with these activities to the extent needed to stimulate or supplement actions taken at field level to achieve proper operational performance.

*c.* Review and approval of water control plans and manuals and deviations to these plans are transferred to the MSC Commander by this regulation and

ER 1110-2-240. However, a certain level of oversight is retained at HQUSACE whenever a change to the Water Control Plan is proposed by the MSC Commander (see paragraph 9c).

*d.* Representatives of CECW-EH will maintain necessary contacts with programs and activities conducted or proposed by Centers, including participation in meetings at field level to provide an appropriate level of oversight.

## 8. Management Documents

*a. General.* EM 1110-2-3600 provides technical guidelines for preparing water control manuals for individual projects and systems. It is the responsibility of Centers to improve and supplement technical procedures presented in this EM and in other available documents, as required to ensure up-to-date analysis of water control problems and formulation of the most satisfactory plans and manuals for specific projects and systems.

### *b. Guidance Memorandum.*

(1) A Guidance Memorandum is required for each Center and is intended for administrative use in the management of water control activities. Each MSC Guidance Memorandum will be used to amplify explanations of functions that require special emphasis, and to define any responsibility or requirement that differs from the usual because of regional considerations.

(2) Guidance Memorandums will provide useful information for acquainting various interested agencies with the activities of Centers or general aspects of water control activities in the region. These incidental uses should be described in the memorandums.

(3) Following approval by Director of Civil Works, the Guidance Memorandum will be used as the basic guide by the MSC in the management of water control activities. The Guidance Memorandum should be updated on a 10-year interval to ensure that it meets current needs.

## 9. Role of Centers in Preparing and Processing Water Control Plans and Manuals

*a.* In accordance with activities and delegation of responsibilities specified in this regulation, Centers will maintain close contact with Districts relative to the

development of water control plans and manuals, and will take appropriate action to assure adequate progress in completing and updating of all plans and manuals for projects under their jurisdiction.

*b.* Problems associated with the preparation of water control plans and manuals, proposals for solutions, and the status of manual preparations will be reviewed during meetings of HQUSACE and field representatives. In addition, requests for special consultation with representatives of CECW-EH will be initiated by the Centers whenever such assistance is needed.

*c.* New water control manuals or revised water control manuals which contain a change to the water control plan must be developed with full public involvement and sent to CECW-EH for review and comment prior to MSC approval, in accordance with ER 1110-2-240.

*d.* After approval by the MSC Commander, one copy of the water control manual or revision will be transmitted to CECW-EH to retain for information, with a cover letter discussing any actions taken in compliance with paragraph 9c above and calling attention to any other problems or contents of the manual which the MSC Commander considers should receive special attention.

## 10. Program Reviews

*a. General.* It is essential that representatives of HQUSACE be kept informed regarding water control problems and activities. It is also important that field representatives have an opportunity to present background information in support of current or proposed activities, and receive advice on matters of concern. A free exchange of views and discussions regarding pertinent subjects will aid in reaching decisions. Although some objectives can be achieved through correspondence, experience has shown that meetings are generally more efficient in reaching mutual understandings on questions of the nature involved in water control activities.

*b. Annual meetings.* At least one meeting in each Center should be formulated at field level each year and coordinated with CECW-EH. The range of topics to be covered will be agreed upon by the Center and CECW-EH in advance. Attendance at the meeting should include personnel from the District, Center, and CECW-EH.

*c. Documentation of programs and activities.*

Based on results of the annual meeting referred to above, and other pertinent information, a report will be prepared summarizing activities of significance during the previous year and programs proposed for the next year, and will be submitted to CECW-EH for information. (Exempt report, paragraphs 7-2b and 7-2y, AR 335-15.)

*d. Other contacts.* Although annual meetings and reports will be utilized to minimize requirements for correspondence and meetings, additional contacts will be scheduled for special purposes when warranted.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

**11. Advisories to HQUSACE**

*a.* ER 1110-2-240 indicates the nature and scope of information reports and advisories required in water control activities.

*b.* The Guidance Memorandum for each Center will specify the nature of information releases to be prepared in the course of project regulation.



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