

CHAPTER 7 - PLANT

7-1. Purpose. This chapter establishes the policy for all aspects of Civil Works plant. This introduction covers administration, supervision, ownership, use, rehabilitation, retention in service, and replacement of all types of plant, including aircraft, owned under the Revolving Fund or Project accounts.

7-2. Policy. It is the policy of the Corps of Engineers that:

a. Federal plant shall not be acquired or retained unless it is clearly evident that utilization of such equipment shall result in a more efficient and economical operation than the use of privately owned plant. Ownership of floating or land plant and aircraft shall be based on the need to satisfactorily perform an authorized mission that cannot be accomplished economically by other means, including the use of contract facilities.

b. Retention of Plant.

(1) Justification for the replacement, rehabilitation, or retention in service of Federal plant that is considered to be obsolete or which has reached the end of its estimated life shall be based on a complete economic analysis of all pertinent factors, including at least the following: workload, safety, operating efficiency, and maintenance requirements. Guidance on the analysis and justification of replacement, rehabilitation, or retention of plant can be obtained from CECW-O.

(2) Annual review of the usage data maintained on plant shall be conducted to determine whether the basis for retaining plant should be reanalyzed. When this review shows the annual usage for the prior year or the estimated usage for the next year to be less than 45 days, the plant shall be declared excess, or a report justifying its retention shall be made to HQUSACE. When it is conclusively demonstrated that a minimum of plant is being retained to satisfactorily perform an authorized mission, such plant may be retained. Plant retained for emergency service, such as fire fighting and first response for structural emergencies with an annual usage less than 45 days, shall be reported to MSCs. Retention of plant used for emergency service shall be approved by MSC Commanders on such frequency as they deem appropriate.

c. Use of Structures and Facilities.

(1) Repair shops, boatyards, drydocks, marine ways, depots, garages, storehouses, office buildings and grounds, and similar facilities acquired for general use on MSC or district river and harbor and flood control projects shall be designated under the Revolving Fund. Other Federal or privately owned facilities which can be adapted and used for essential purposes shall not be duplicated.

(2) Cost accounting procedures, including depreciation, dockage, and other charges for structures and facilities noted above, are covered in ER 37-2-10. The cost of depreciation, maintenance, and operation of buildings and grounds pertaining to MSC and district offices will be distributed in accordance with the provisions of ER 37-2-10.

d. MSC commanders are responsible for establishing an effective supervisory program for plant activities.

e. District commanders are responsible for the development and administration of an active program for plant activities, including acquisition, replacement, inspection, maintenance, repair and operation of plant required, and funding such activities to the fullest extent practicable (directly or indirectly) from authorized civil works projects. The basic objectives of the plant activities program shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (1) The establishment of minimum plant requirements based on authorized routine or emergency work.
- (2) The establishment of minimum requirements for shop, yard, and warehouse facilities to adequately repair plant and maintain locks, dams, and other structures.
- (3) The elimination of unnecessary plant procurement by redistribution of excesses within the district, or by transfer from other MSCs, districts, or Federal agencies.
- (4) Prompt disposal of surplus plant by circulation of excess plant listings, by transfer, or by sale.
- (5) The establishment of adequate controls over plant maintenance, operation, and repairs to ensure safe, economic, and efficient operation, that repair authorities are not exceeded, and only essential repairs are made.
- (6) Ensuring that group and non-group plant operation rates are adequate to provide for depreciation, cessation, small tools and operating costs, along with a factor for repairs and overhaul in advance of incurring such costs. Also, ensuring that all costs incurred are realistically distributed in the fiscal year for which they were incurred.

f. Except as provided for in Section 4 of this chapter, Federal equipment, facilities, property, or manpower shall be used only for the accomplishment of work at authorized civil works projects. Even the appearance of misuse of public property shall be avoided.

Section I. Design, Acquisition, and Construction

7-3. Purpose. This section establishes the policy for the design, acquisition, construction, and alteration of all civil works plant.

7-4. Policy. It is the policy of the Corps of Engineers that:

a. Design efforts for civil works plant and equipment shall be limited to the minimum necessary to define the mission and performance requirements, encourage competition, and acquire appropriate plant suitable for use in the intended service.

(1) Designs for the construction or alteration of all major items of floating plant which are not readily available on the commercial market, or for which manufacturers' standard designs are not suitable for use, shall be prepared by the USACE Marine Design Center (MDC).

(a) Criteria set forth in Chapter 7 of EP 1130-2-500 and Engineer Manual 385-1-1 shall be followed for design and construction of all civil works plant.

(b) Certificates of Inspection, Classifications, and Certifications of other regulatory

agencies required and acquired during construction of a vessel shall be maintained by the operating Field Operating Activity (FOA).

(2) To the maximum extent possible, floating plant shall be standardized within the Corps.

(a) Unique designs shall not be created for vessels which are currently either in the Corps' existing inventory or are common commercial vessels, unless dictated by mission requirements. General Design Memoranda must contain justification for unique designs. The review and approval of floating plant design is set forth by the USACE Marine Engineering Board.

(b) Barges shall be standardized throughout the Corps as established by the Marine Engineering Board.

(c) Fuel tanks on vessels shall not have a common boundary with the sideshell, unless a waiver is obtained from HQUSACE, CECW-OD.

b. The authority to initiate Design Effort to acquire floating plant or make capital improvements to existing vessels, shall be requested by the owning district as soon as the need is established. Specific guidance on the format of the request, the required documentation and justifications, and the delegations of authorities are provided in Chapter 7 of EP 1130-2-500.

c. A new Major Item New Start (MINS) request shall be submitted to HQUSACE when up to 35% of the Design Effort has been carried out. Completion of the Preliminary (Concept) Design and preparation of General Design and Feature Design Memoranda meets this requirement. Specific guidance on the format of the request and the required documentation and justification are provided in Chapter 7 of EP 1130-2-500. Document narrative requirements are discussed in Chapter 15 of this regulation.

d. Design Memoranda.

(1) A General Design Memorandum (GDM) shall be prepared and submitted for approval to HQUSACE for each item of plant to be acquired and for major alterations of existing plant. All GDMs for floating plant shall be prepared by the MDC, or by the district authorized to complete the Design Effort. Each design memorandum shall reflect the complexity of the plant involved. Chapter 7 of EP 1130-2-500 contains an outline for GDMs for Major Items of plant. Design of major floating plant by other than Marine Design Center shall be fully justified.

(2) A Feature Design Memorandum (FDM) shall be prepared and submitted for approval to HQUSACE for each item of plant to be acquired, and for major alterations of existing plant. All FDMs for floating plant shall be prepared by the MDC, or by the district authorized to complete the Design Effort. However, for less complex projects, the technical specifics of the FDM can be incorporated into the GDM. Chapter 7 of EP 1130-2-500 contains an outline for FDMs for major items of plant.

e. Plans and Specifications.

(1) The preparation and approval of plans and specifications for the construction and/or alteration of all floating plant shall be in accordance with the provisions provided in Chapter 7 of EP 1130-2-500. Plans and specifications shall be based on the provisions of the approved

General Design Memorandum. Approval of HQUSACE shall be obtained for any substantial departure from approved design memoranda found necessary or desirable during the preparation of plans and specifications.

(2) Plans and specification for Major Items of floating plant shall be prepared by the MDC and approved by the respective District Commander, the Marine Engineering Board, or HQUSACE, as appropriate. The District Commander shall furnish approval action to the MDC.

(3) Plans and specifications for floating plant for which execution has been granted to the owning district, shall be prepared by or under the supervision of the owning district and approved by the MSC. A Biddability and Constructability Review is the responsibility of the owning district. MDC shall be furnished copies of the contractual documents and modifications; the involvement of the MDC in the district's design process shall be determined by the Marine Engineering Board.

f. Inspection of Construction. A Quality Assurance Plan shall be prepared for the construction and/or alteration of floating plant under contract. The plan shall describe the contract management organization, the responsible staff, the skills and experience available, and the estimated Supervision and Inspection cost.

g. Standards for Floating Plant Construction.

(1) All floating plant shall be constructed, equipped and manned to meet the same requirements as imposed on private industry owners and operators of similar marine equipment by the laws of the United States and of the State(s) where constructed or employed. Vessels shall be certified and classed for their intended use and purpose. District commanders shall maintain these certificates and classifications for the life of the vessel. Procedures for arranging certifications and classifications from the U.S. Coast Guard and the American Bureau of Shipping are provided in Chapter 7 of EP 1130-2-500. A waiver for classing and certifying vessels can be obtained from HQUSACE, such as GSA schedule vessels.

(2) New floating plant and, where practical, alterations to existing plant shall be designed and constructed in accordance with the applicable current rules and regulations of the organizations, agencies, and offices listed in Chapter 7 of EP 1130-2-500.

Section II. Floating Plant Identification and Record Information

7-5. Purpose. This section establishes the policy for naming, marking, and recording items of Corps of Engineers floating plant.

7-6. Policy. It is the policy of the Corps of Engineers that:

a. HQUSACE approval shall be obtained for the naming, and other proposed designations of all floating plant. No item of floating plant shall be named in honor of a living person.

(1) Preference shall be given to names of deceased officers and employees of the Corps of Engineers, or to names of waterways or other geographical features of regions in which the items of floating plant are to operate, or historical names directly connected therewith. When the name of a deceased person is to be assigned, the surname only shall be used rather than including

the title, first name and initials for the vessel designation.

(2) District commanders are authorized to assign numbers or combinations of numbers and letters consistent with a uniform numbering procedure, for minor items of plant. Only numerical designations shall be assigned to barges, scows, flats and minor item of plant such as small boats, skiffs, etc. One copy of the approving or assigning document, or the notification of assignment of each vessel designation shall be furnished to the Commander, HQUSACE, Attention: CECW-OD.

b. Standards for Marking Floating Plant.

(1) Names and/or other designations of floating plant shall be placed on vessels in accordance with Chapter 7 of EP 1130-2- 500. The words "CORPS OF ENGINEERS" and "U.S. ARMY" shall appear on or near the stern of all vessels. Vessel designations shall be displayed on both sides of the bow and on the stern of the hull proper and, where appropriate, on name boards located above the weather deck.

(2) Names and/or other designations shall be placed on the exterior of launches and similar type craft in the following locations: name boards, both port and starboard bows, and across the stern. Lettering style and wording shall be in accordance with Chapter 7 of EP 1130-2-500.

c. Descriptive Data.

(1) Whenever items of floating plant, both Revolving Fund and Project-owned, of the types indicated in Chapter 7 of EP 1130-2-500 are constructed or otherwise acquired, data thereon shall be compiled on the applicable ENG Form 33A through E, "Description of Plant" (available from the USACE Publications Depot), and a copy of the form shall be transmitted to HQUSACE, Attention: CECW-OD within 30 days after delivery and the plant is placed in service. In the event alterations made to plant require correction of data previously submitted, copies of revised forms shall be transmitted within 30 days after completion of the alterations.

(2) Whenever items of floating plant, Revolving Fund and Project owned, of the types listed in Chapter 7 of EP 1130-2-500 are constructed or otherwise acquired, record photographs shall be made and submitted to HQUSACE, Attention: CECW-OD.

d. Vessel Registration. When a vessel is purchased or otherwise acquired, the District Commander shall determine the requirements for registering the vessel with the United States Coast Guard (USCG), the American Bureau of Shipping (ABS), and the United States Public Health Service (USPHS).

Section III. Plant Inspection, Maintenance, Operation and Repair

7-7. Purpose. This section establishes the policy for the inspection, maintenance, operation, and repair of all civil works Revolving Fund and Project-owned floating plant.

7-8. Policy. It is the policy of the Corps of Engineers that:

a. Inspection.

(1) District commanders shall arrange for inspection and certification by the U. S. Coast Guard Officer in Charge of Marine Inspection (OCMI) of all self-propelled vessels in accordance with applicable provisions of 46 CFR and the provisions of the Inspection Agreement found in Chapter 7 of EP 1130-2-500, unless a waiver is obtained from CECW-OD. Any deficiencies reported by Coast Guard inspectors shall be corrected without delay so that required documents may be obtained. When plant is not in use, inspection and certification is at the option of the District Commander.

(2) All floating plant not covered in paragraph 7-8a(1)above, and those for which a waiver has been obtained, shall be maintained and operated in accordance with the regulations of the United States Coast Guard. This requirement does not contemplate registry of such craft with the USCG, ABS, and USPHS, nor inspection by the Coast Guard. In lieu of such registry or inspection, each vessel in this category shall be initially inspected by a representative of the District Commander to develop the equipment required for safe operation and the permissible number of persons that may be carried on board.

(3) Floating plant steam boilers and unfired pressure tanks shall be inspected in accordance with USCG regulations and ASME code. A record of such inspections shall be posted, under glass, in the engine room.

(4) When a major conversion or rehabilitation is accomplished which involves the safety of the vessel, the District Commander shall determine whether an inspection by the Coast Guard, ABS, and USPHS is warranted.

b. Maintenance and Repairs.

(1) All floating plant shall be maintained and repaired to meet the requirements imposed by HQUSACE, applicable provisions of 46 CFR, the laws of the United States, and any state in which it is operated.

(2) Additions, betterments, and repairs shall be performed in accordance with applicable rules or regulations of HQUSACE, American Bureau of Shipping, U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Public Health Service, and the American Boat and Yacht Council (ABYC).

(3) District Commanders shall annually evaluate the general condition of all their floating plant to determine which units shall require repairs or replacements and/or additions and betterments during the next repair period.

c. Operations.

(1) All floating plant shall be operated to meet the requirements imposed by HQUSACE, and the laws of the United States and any state in which it is operated. Hopper dredges shall not be operated in excess of the draft limitations established by CECW-OD, unless a waiver is obtained from CECW-OD.

(2) Officers and crew of self-propelled floating plant inspected and certificated by the U. S. Coast Guard or, not covered under paragraph 7-8c(3)below, shall be licensed and/or documented by the U. S. Coast Guard.

(3) Operators of USCG uninspected self-propelled floating plant, up to and including vessels 65 feet in length shall be qualified and licensed by the U. S. Coast Guard or as required by ER 385-1-91. The operation of all floating plant shall be in accordance with the requirements of EM 385-1-1. Chapter 4 of ER 1130-2-500 describes the limitation of floating plant to official business.

(4) District commanders shall report to HQUSACE, Attention: CECW-OD the annual schedule and each significant change in location of the Corps Minimum Fleet dredges.

(5) Manning and Licensing. As a minimum hopper dredges of the Corps of Engineers shall be staffed with qualified personnel with U.S. Coast Guard license requirements in accordance with the USCG Certificate of Inspection.

d. All Plant.

(1) Authority for Acquisition. Acquisition of all revolving fund and project-owned aircraft, dredges, and all other floating plant shall be in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 7 of this regulation.

(2) Authority for Repairs - Revolving Fund. Authority shall be obtained from MSC commanders or HQUSACE, as appropriate, for annual repairs to revolving fund-owned floating plant.

(a) Non-Group Plant. Full authority is delegated to MSC commanders for repairs to non-group plant; however, whenever the total estimated cost of repairs, replacements and small tools during any fiscal year is over 25 percent of the estimated replacement cost of the plant as corrected by ER 37-2-10, a letter of justification for repair in lieu of replacement or rehabilitation shall be submitted to HQUSACE, CECW-O. Authority of district commanders is as delegated by MSC commanders.

(b) Group Plant. Full authority is delegated to MSC commanders for repairs to group plant. District commanders are authorized to accomplish repairs, as required, provided the total cost does not exceed the currently approved total annual group-repair cost.

(c) Emergency. Full authority is delegated to MSC commanders; however, if total estimated cost of repairs and replacements of any item of non-group plant for any one emergency is greater than 30 percent of the total cost of the plant or \$25,000, whichever is the larger amount, a letter of justification for repair in lieu of replacement or rehabilitation shall be submitted to HQUSACE, CECW-O. All or partial authority may be redelegated to district commanders by MSC commanders. (The term "emergency" applies to work required due to accident or breakdown of machinery while plant is in actual commission.)

(3) Authority for Repairs - Project-owned.

(a) Floating Plant - Full authority is delegated to MSC commanders for repairs to floating plant except when the total estimated cost of repairs and replacements during any fiscal year is over 25 percent of the estimated replacement cost of the plant. In this case, a letter of justification for repair in lieu of replacement or rehabilitation shall be submitted to HQUSACE, CECW-O, for approval.

(b) Other Plant - Full authority is delegated to MSC commanders for repairs to all other plant. Authority of district commanders shall be as delegated by MSC Commanders.

(4) Authority for Additions and Betterments. Additions and betterments for all revolving fund-owned and project-owned plant shall be in accordance with Chapter 15 of this regulation.

Section IV. Use, Loan, Lease, and Hire of Plant

7-9. Purpose. This section establishes the policy for the use, loan, lease, and hire of floating plant, land plant, and other civil works construction equipment and facilities.

7-10. Policy. It is the policy of the Corps of Engineers that:

a. Use of Vessels and Other Conveyances.

(1) In accordance with the Act of July 31, 1947, 61 Stat. 688, 33 USC 575, which provides that, "Hereafter no appropriation under the Corps of Engineers shall be available for any expenses incident to operating any power driven boat or vessel on other than government business, and that government business shall be construed to include transportation, lodging, and subsistence on inspection trips of Federal and state officials, having a public interest in authorized or proposed improvements for river and harbor and flood control, and any expenses incurred therefore shall be chargeable to river and harbor and flood control appropriations heretofore or hereafter made under rules and regulations to be prescribed by the Chief of Engineers: Provided, That such expenditures shall be certified by the Division Commander as necessary and proper expenditures:"

(2) Commanders who authorize a trip by a Corps of Engineers vessel with guests, other than district employees on official business or for Federal or state officials, shall prepare and file a detailed statement outlining the purpose and scope of the trip.

b. Use of Corps of Engineers Plant in an Emergency to Save Life or Property.

(1) Commanders of separate activities are granted the authority to use or loan government vessels and other equipment when life is endangered by a sudden emergency. Reimbursement is not required when Corps of Engineers plant is used to save life. Use of Corps plant is also permitted to save private property, provided suitable privately-owned vessels or equipment are not available and the plant can be spared without significant detriment to Corps of Engineers work. When Corps of Engineers plant or equipment is used to save private property, the owner shall be billed for only "out of pocket" expense incurred by the United States.

(2) Masters and others in charge of operating Corps of Engineers floating plant are authorized to aid nearby vessels in distress and attempt to save the lives of those endangered; provided that the safety of their plant and crew are not unduly jeopardized. Masters and others in charge of Corps of Engineers floating plant may issue sufficient fuel or supplies to private boat owners to enable them to reach port safely.

(3) A report, including sufficient details to describe the necessity for use, shall be promptly made to the MSC each time Corps of Engineers equipment is used or issued to save life or private property.

c. Loan of Plant between Districts or Projects.

(1) District commanders are delegated the authority to approve loan of plant to another district or between the owning district's projects.

(2) During the loan period, the borrowing district shall:

- bear all operating expenses for labor and supplies;
- have responsibility for operation of the plant while on loan, except that the owning district may have a representative visit the plant to evaluate the operating efficiency, condition of maintenance, personnel morale, and the necessity for future repairs;
- conform to the plant operation procedures of the owning district.

(3) Except as outlined below, all replacement and major repair (including general overhaul) costs to revolving fund-owned plant shall be charged to the appropriate plant rental account or plant operating account. Costs for replacement and repairs, including towing and similar expenses caused by accidents or damages ordinarily covered by insurance in commercial practice, shall be charged to the owning district's insurance account. This account shall also be charged with costs of damage to private property caused by revolving fund operations, including reimbursement to employees for loss of personal property. When project plant is involved, the above costs shall be charged directly to the project account.

d. Loan of Plant and Other Property to Corps of Engineers Military Activities and Other Federal Agencies. District commanders are delegated authority for the loan of floating plant to Corps of Engineers military activities or other federal agencies, except where the loan term exceeds three (3) years; for loan of land plant equipment and other property; and the loan of shop and yard equipment on a fully operated basis. Leases and licenses of real property shall be accomplished in accordance with ER 405-1-12. Loan of civil works-owned plant or property to military activities shall not be approved when contrary to military regulations, or where restrictions on the use of military funds preclude reimbursement to civil accounts for its use.

e. Corps of Engineers Policy on Lease of Plant and Other Equipment to State, Political Subdivisions, and Private Parties.

(1) Corps of Engineers plant and other equipment shall not be leased to states, their political subdivisions, or to private parties, except where an urgent and essential need exists and all efforts to obtain such plant and other equipment from private sources have failed, or the district commander determines it to be in the best interest of interagency cooperation and contribute to long term benefit to the public. District commanders are delegated the authority to lease plant, equipment, and other property to states, their political subdivisions, and to private parties, except as provided above, if the term of the lease is for three (3) years or less and in accordance with ER 405-1-12. This policy does not apply when the plant and other equipment is required for emergency use to save life or property.

(2) Use of Shop and Yard Facilities. District commanders may permit the use of Corps of Engineers shop and yard facilities by States, their political subdivisions, or private parties, subject to the following conditions:

(a) The facilities remain under the complete and continuous control of the District Commander.

(b) Adequate evidence has been presented that similar privately owned facilities are not available.

(c) No detriment to Corps of Engineers work shall result from the use of the facilities.

(d) That urgent and essential need exists for use of the facilities, e.g., threatened disruption of an essential service.

(e) The use period shall not extend beyond 30 calendar days, nor shall the aggregate charges exceed \$100,000.

(f) Charges shall include adequate provision for personnel, rental, materials, supplies, and all other services provided, plus overhead at the district hired-labor rate. This total shall then be increased by a 25 percent surcharge to provide more complete protection of the public interests.

f. Hire of Floating Plant. The Act of May 28, 1906, 34 Stat. 204, 46 USC. 292, provides in part that, "a foreign-built dredge shall not, under penalty of forfeiture, engage in dredging in the United States unless documented as a vessel of the United States." District commanders are delegated authority for hire of floating plant provided that the rental period does not exceed one year; the total rental cost shall not exceed \$2,000,000, or the total of the approved current work allowance, whichever is the lesser amount; and that the lessor releases the government and its officers and agents from all responsibility for damages, such as are ordinarily covered by insurance.

g. Authority for Hire of Land Plant and Other Construction Equipment. District commanders are delegated authority for hire of land plant and other construction equipment.

Section V. Plant Ownership, Operating Cost, Utilization, and Rate Computations

7-11. Purpose. This section establishes the policy for the supervision, management, utilization, recording, and calculation of costs of all plant owned by, or on loan from, the revolving fund.

7-12. Policy. It is the policy of the Corps of Engineers that:

a. All charges for the use of revolving fund plant and facilities shall be determined and reviewed quarterly to ensure that these charges are fair, reasonable, and realistic, and that account balances are reasonable and within allowable tolerances, in accordance Chapter 7 of EP 1130-2-500.

(1) When circumstances prohibit rate adjustment to nominal levels within 180 days, a justification report and account balance shall be submitted to CECW-OM.

(2) Excess debit or credit balance that would materially distort the current operating rate if recovered in one year shall be recovered in not more than three years.

b. Plant ownership and operating data for each item of plant owned by the revolving fund shall be determined and reported in accordance with Chapter 7 of EP 1130-2-500.

c. Utilization and costs of plant shall be recorded and reported in accordance with the format and frequencies provided in Chapter 7 of EP 1130-2-500.

d. Utilization, costs, and rates for plant shall be determined in accordance with the guidance on cost components and the formulas provided in Chapter 7 of EP 1130-2-500.

Section VI. Floating Plant Accidents and Damage

7-13. Purpose. This section establishes the policy on the investigation of damage by or to floating plant owned and operated by the Corps of Engineers.

7-14. Policy. It is the policy of the Corps of Engineers that:

a. Damage by Government-owned Vessels. The settlement of claim for damage by government-owned vessels shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Act of 3 July 1943 (31 USC 223b), as amended by the Act of 28 June 1946 (PL 466, 79th Congress).

b. Damage to Government-owned Vessels. Pecuniary penalties and, in addition, liability for the amount of damages shall be sought as appropriate for violators of Section 14 of the River and Harbor Act, approved 3 March 1899, which makes it unlawful for any person or persons to damage, or in any manner impair the usefulness of any piece of plant, floating, or otherwise, used in the construction of the preservation and improvement of any of its navigable waters or to prevent floods.

c. Investigations. The possibility of negligence on the part of operating or supervisory personnel shall be considered in the investigation of all marine accidents to civil works floating plant. Investigations and reports of surveys should be completely unbiased in the disclosure of contributory causes. Where damage exceeds \$50,000, the accident shall be investigated in accordance with EM 385-1-1, "Safety and Health Requirements Manual." Other necessary investigations shall be conducted in accordance with AR 735-5. For investigations of property damage in excess of \$50,000 or fatalities, as a minimum, the Marine Design Center shall be furnished copies of investigations or participate in the investigation as appropriate.

Section VII. Corps of Engineers Marine Engineering Board

7-15. Purpose. This section establishes the USACE Marine Engineering Board, its composition, and objectives.

7-16. Policy. It is the policy of the Corps of Engineers that:

a. A Marine Engineering Board shall be established by the Director of Civil Works and administered by the Operations, Construction, and Readiness Division, HQUSACE. The objectives of the board shall be to:

(1) Continually evaluate design, construction, maintenance, and operations techniques of marine plant.

(2) Provide acquisition, managerial, and technical recommendations concerning marine plant.

(3) Provide information which will improve the operational efficiency of existing plant to HQUSACE.

(4) Prioritize procurements and advocate and promulgate standardization.

b. The Marine Engineering Board will be comprised of representatives of the Corps of Engineers. The representatives shall be senior civilian engineers of the Corps of Engineers who possess program and managerial experience, and expert knowledge and technical background in the design, construction, operation, and repair of marine plant. Members of the board and alternate representatives shall be nominated by their respective MSC offices, and appointed by the Director of Civil Works. The chairperson of the board may form committees or working groups as necessary to address specific operational, maintenance, repair, or administrative practices. Members of the committees or working groups will be determined by the board.

c. The following individuals shall be designated as the membership the Marine Engineering Board:

(1) The chairperson shall be the Chief of the Dredging and Navigation Branch, Operations, Construction, and Readiness Division, HQUSACE.

(2) The individuals who shall be designated as Members of the Marine Engineering Board are presented in Chapter 8 of EP 1130-2-520.

(3) The following representatives, or designated alternate, shall serve as permanent, non-voting advisors to the board:

(a) HQUSACE, Plant Replacement Improvement Program (PRIP) Manager shall serve as Program Advisor.

(b) HQUSACE, Chief, Programs Division, Civil Works Directorate, shall serve as Financial Advisor.

(c) Director, USACE Marine Design Center shall serve as Technical Advisor.

(4) Should conditions warrant, the chairperson of the board may request a representative of the cognizant MSC and/or district commander to serve as an advisor on the board to assist in resolving a unique or unusual dredge or marine plant related matter.

d. The board shall be responsible for the functions which are applicable to all Corps of Engineers marine plant outlined in Chapter 7 of EP 1130-2-500. Specific guidance on the responsibilities and administration of the Marine Engineering Board is provided in Chapter 8 of EP 1130-2-520.