



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
441 G STREET NW
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1000

S: 30 August 2009

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MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEFS, OPERATIONS DIVISIONS, MAJOR SUBORDINATE
COMMANDS AND DISTRICT COMMANDS

SUBJECT: Environmental Review Guide for Operations (ERGO) Policy Update and Cycle V
Assessment Scheduling

1. Reference ER 200-2-3, Chapter 3, Environmental Compliance Assessments, 30 October 1996.
2. This memo renews the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Operations corporate commitment to excellence in environmental compliance. Operations Chiefs (OPS Chiefs) and Operations Project Managers (OPMs) at all levels of the Corps are responsible for environmental compliance at their respective projects, districts, divisions, and HQUSACE. Our environmental compliance assessment process, managed by the Environmental Review Guide for Operations (ERGO) policy, has been and remains the most effective tool for our OPS Chiefs and OPMs to achieve, improve, and oversee environmental compliance performance.
3. Enclosure 1 provides a list of ERGO-related policy changes that will take effect on 1 October 2009, at the start of the next 5-year cycle of ERGO assessments, "ERGO Cycle V." The policy changes are designed to improve accountability, data management, performance measurement, communication, and leadership review of environmental compliance performance across the Operations community. These changes will be incorporated into revised Engineering Regulation 200-2-3, *Environmental Compliance Policies*, which is scheduled to be issued late in CY09.
4. This memo tasks the MSC's with scheduling Internal and External assessments to establish the planning baseline for ERGO Cycle V and to support measurement and evaluation of performance throughout Cycle V. Enclosure 2 provides additional guidance and information for ERGO assessment schedule development.
5. My point of contact for questions related to ERGO is John Coho, John.W.Coho@USACE.Army.mil, (202) 761-4722.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

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Michael G. Ensch
Chief, Operations
Directorate of Civil Works

Enclosure 1

Policy changes pertaining to ERGO Cycle V, as listed below, will be effective beginning on 1 Oct 09. These policy changes will be incorporated into ER 200-2-3 during the on-going review and revision process:

1. Performance measures for the ERGO process will no longer differentiate between major and minor findings. All findings previously recorded as major or minor will be tracked in ERGO performance measures simply as "findings."
2. "Significant" findings shall be separately identified, tracked, dealt with immediately, and recorded accordingly.
3. The performance measures for closure rate and external assessments will remain unchanged, and will be applied and evaluated as in ERGO Cycle IV.
4. A new performance measure will track Internal Assessments, as scheduled in the Environmental Compliance area of the Operations and Maintenance Business Information Link (EC OMBIL) in response to this memo, which are completed within a fiscal year. The goal for completion of internal assessments is 100% of schedule. The new metric will be tracked in the same manner as the External Assessment performance measure used during ERGO Cycle IV. This performance measure applies to Corps owned and operated facilities as well as outgrants.
5. The District ECC shall ensure complete, accurate and timely entry of ERGO assessment data into EC OMBIL for all internal and external assessments. All ERGO-related data for outgrants will be tracked separately from data for Corps operated activities and reported to the District Real Estate element for any corrective action.
6. Internal and external assessment data shall be reviewed by the Project ECC, and its completeness and accuracy shall be certified in writing by the OPM.
7. Internal and external assessments, all associated findings, and all closure information shall be documented in EC OMBIL by the last business day in the month of October in each year of Cycle V.
8. ERGO performance evaluations for FY09 and each Fiscal Year in Cycle V will commence on the first business day after October 31st.
9. ERGO performance will be reviewed at least annually by the OPM or Chief of Operations for each Project, District and Division.

Enclosure 2

Each Division shall develop a baseline Division-wide schedule for ERGO Cycle V External Assessments (FY10-FY14) and for those Internal assessments to be conducted in FY10. The Internal (for FY10) and External assessment schedule must be entered into EC OMBIL by 30 Aug 09. Specific instructions for entering assessment scheduling information are available at <https://ombil.usace.army.mil/systems/reflinks/EnvComplianceReflinks.htm>. The baseline list of facilities for ERGO Cycle V is available electronically on the Environmental Compliance Assessment (ERGO) page of the NRM Gateway at <http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil/employees/envcomp/assess/assessment.html>.

Note that both the baseline schedule and baseline list of facilities may be modified to meet evolving District or Division requirements, subject to Division approval and notification of HQ USACE (John.W.Coho@USACE.Army.mil). Each Division's ERGO Cycle V schedule shall meet the following requirements:

1. External Assessments.

- a. USACE Civil Works (CW) facilities operated by CW personnel: External assessments are required once in the 5 year ERGO cycle at CW facilities operated by CW personnel.
- b. Outgrants of real property on CW Projects: External assessments are required once in the 5 year ERGO cycle at those outgrants determined by the District to require support and oversight through the ERGO process. The District ECC in coordination with the Real Estate element shall make determinations of outgrants requiring ERGO oversight and support based on the following criteria:
 - (1) The presence of outgrant activities regulated under Federal, state or local environmental law, regulation, permit, or executive order, or as specified by USACE policy.
 - (2) The presence of outgrant activities that warrant ERGO oversight and support based on a local determination that outgrant activities are environmentally significant.

2. Internal Assessments at USACE Civil Works (CW) facilities operated by CW personnel and at Outgrants of real property on CW Projects.

- a. In FY10, internal assessments shall be scheduled and conducted as required by current (1996) ERGO policy, i.e., annually at all CW operated facilities and at District-selected outgrants.
- b. Beginning in FY11, the *baseline* list of Corps-operated and outgrant facilities *potentially* requiring internal assessments shall be the list developed for external assessments in response to the requirements in paragraph 1. External Assessments, above.
- c. Beginning in FY11, the Districts may select facilities at which they will schedule and execute internal ERGO assessments, to the extent that the facilities have documented in EC OMBIL performance data meeting the ERGO performance measure goals. The intent of this policy change is to enable the Districts to focus their ERGO resources on facilities most in need of additional ERGO oversight. The selection process shall be based on objective, District-level evaluations of the most recent ERGO assessment data in EC OMBIL and the criteria listed below:
 - (1) EC OMBIL data demonstrating facility attainment of HQ USACE-established goals for completion of ERGO assessments, entry of ERGO data into EC OMBIL, and closure of ERGO findings.

- (2) Facility performance indicating a need for additional oversight, such as regulatory enforcement actions or reports by Corps staff of questionable environmental compliance practices.
- (3) Applicability of new regulatory requirements at the facility or special emphasis areas specified by higher command.
- (4) EC OMBIL data indicating that the time elapsed since the most recent ERGO assessment warrants an internal assessment in the coming year.

d. Beginning in FY11, CW operated facilities and outgrants that have *not* achieved the HQ USACE established ERGO goals (as listed in 2.c. (1), above) for the previous fiscal year, are required to schedule and conduct internal environmental compliance assessments annually.

3. The District ECC shall ensure that scheduling of ERGO assessments at outgrants is coordinated with the District Real Estate element, and the results of ERGO assessments are provided to Real Estate for corrective action and inclusion in real estate compliance inspection reports, as appropriate.