

Planning Guidance Letter #97-02

Long-Term Management Strategies for Sediment Control

CECW-PD (18 February 1997)

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDERS, MAJOR SUBORDINATE COMMANDS

SUBJECT: Planning Guidance Letter 97-2, Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 1996 Implementation

1. Purpose. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide guidance on Section 516 (a) (b) (c) of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 1996.

2. Section 516 (a) (b) (c) provides:

(a) That the Secretary of the Army may enter into cooperation agreements with non-Federal interests, or other appropriate non-Federal entities, for the development of long-term management strategies for controlling sediments at navigation projects.

(b) That each strategy shall: (a) include assessments of sediment rates and composition, sediment reduction options, dredging practices, long-term management of any dredged material disposal facilities, remediation of such facilities, and alternative disposal and reuse options; (b) include a timetable for implementation of the strategy; and (c) incorporate relevant ongoing planning efforts, including remedial action planning, dredged material management planning, harbor and waterfront development planning, and watershed management planning.

(c) That in developing these strategies, the Secretary shall consult with interested Federal agencies, States, and Indian tribes and provide an opportunity for public comment.

3. Sedimentation control is a responsibility of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) at the Federal level, in cooperation with state and local agencies. Therefore, absent specific project authorization, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers would consider undertaking only those sediment reduction strategies or activities required for continued maintenance dredging and dredged material disposal. The Corps may consider participating in broader efforts if the incremental costs are funded by others. The Corps examination of the need for strategies for controlling sediment to reduce dredging and disposal requirements

should be included in dredged material management planning (DMMP); reference EC 1165-2-200, dated 21 July 1994. Therefore, additional implementation guidance will not be required for Section 516 (a) (b) (c).

FOR THE COMMANDER:

(Signed) RUSSELL L. FUHRMAN, Major General, USA, Director of Civil Works