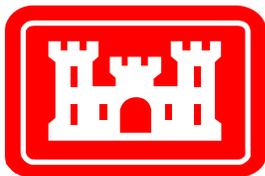


Hatteras and Ocracoke Islands
North Carolina

**Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental
Impact Statement for the
Hatteras and Ocracoke Islands
North Carolina**

DRAFT PEER REVIEW PLAN

September 2007



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Wilmington District

ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS

AFB – Alternative Formulation Briefing

CESAW – US Army Corps of Engineers, South Atlantic, Wilmington

CWRB – Civil Works Review Board

EIS – Environmental Impact Statement

EPR – External Peer Review

FCSA – Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement

FEIS – Final Environmental Impact Statement

FSM – Feasibility Scoping Meeting

GI – General Investigations

HQ – Headquarters

ITR – Independent Technical Review

LOI – Letter of Intent

NEPA – National Environmental Policy Act

OVEST -- Office of the Chief of Engineers Value Engineering Study Team

PCX-CSDR - National Planning Center of Expertise for Coastal Storm Damage
Reduction

PDT – Project Delivery Team

PMP – Project Management Plan

PRP - Peer Review Plan

P&S – Plans & Specifications

SAD – South Atlantic Division

Walla Walla Dx - Walla Walla District Directorate of Expertise for Civil Works
Cost Engineering

1.0 The Peer Review Plan

This Peer Review Plan (PRP) is a collaborative product of the project delivery team (PDT) the National Planning Center of Expertise for Coastal Storm Damage Reduction (PCX-CSDR) and the Walla Walla District Directorate of Expertise for Civil Works Cost Engineering (Walla Walla Dx). The PCX-CSDR and Walla Walla Dx shall manage the PRP, which for this study includes Independent Technical Review (ITR) only. External ITR is not deemed necessary for the initial review phase. Each of the following paragraphs (a. through j.) correspond to the guidance provided in paragraphs 6.a. through j. of Engineering Circular 1105-2-408, Planning - Peer Review of Decision Documents, 31 MAY 2005.

a. Decision Document and Team Members. The Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement for the Philpott Dam and Lake (Section 216 Study), Virginia shall be the decision document.

All models developed or modified during for use in this study will be subjected to ITR and will be certified as required by Engineer Circular (EC) 1105-2-407, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. *Planning Models Improvement Program: Model Certification.*

All ITR's for all required outputs (reports and models) will be document using Dr. Checks in order to maintain a complete record or all comments and responses.

The estimated range of construction cost for the various alternatives varies between \$XXXXXX and \$XXXXXX.

Key PDT members are shown in the table below.

ROLE	NAME	ORGANIZATION
Project Manager		
Program Manager		
Lead Planner		
Lead Biologist		
Biologist		
Cultural Resources		
Coastal H&H		
Coastal/H&H		
Geographic Information Specialist		
Geographic Information Specialist		
Real Estate		
Contract Specialist		

For more information regarding the PRP, the project manager for the feasibility study may be contacted as follows:

US Army Corps of Engineers – Wilmington District

Independent Technical Review Team Leaders

National Planning Center of Expertise for Coastal Storm Damage Reduction
US Army Corps of Engineers – North Atlantic Division

US Army Corps of Engineers – Philadelphia District

Walla Walla District Directorate of Expertise for Civil Works Cost Engineering

b. External Peer Review. EC 1105-2-408 provides the process for deciding whether or not to employ external peer review. The following is an excerpt of EC section 9.a: *Decision documents covered by this Circular will undergo EPR if there is a vertical team consensus (involving district, major subordinate command and Headquarters members) that the covered subject matter (including data, use of models, assumptions, and other scientific and engineering information) is novel, is controversial, is precedent setting, has significant interagency interest, or has significant economic, environmental and social effects to the nation. Decision documents covered by this Circular that do not meet the standard shall undergo ITR as described in paragraph 8, above.*

For this study, it has been determined that EPR is not required. Please see the External Peer Review Decision Checklist below (1 - 5).

1. Novel subject matter? No.
2. Controversial subject matter? No
3. Precedent setting? No
4. Unusually significant interagency interest? No
5. Unusually significant economic, environmental, and social effects to the nation? No

Decision: The PDT suggests that External Peer Review is not required. Independent Technical Review by a US Army Corps of Engineers team external to the project district, CESAW, will be sufficient to comply with the spirit of EC 1105-2-408, Planning - Peer Review of Decision Documents, dated 31 May 2005. It is not anticipated that any new methodologies will be used in the analysis and preparation of the Integrated Feasibility Report/EIS, nor that any of the data collected or analyzed would be considered influential scientific data.

c. Anticipated Peer Review Schedule. This study is not in the Fiscal Year 2008 Federal Budget and has not been in the Federal Budget since Fiscal Year 2005. Work on this study has been suspended indefinitely until Federal funding is received. No completion dates for the required reviews have been established.

REVIEW PHASE	COMPLETION DATE
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In-House Review		
Independent Technical Review		
Feasibility Scoping Meeting (FSM)		
In-House Review		
Independent Technical Review		
Alternative Formulation Briefing (AFB)		
Final EIS / NEPA Public Review		
Civil Works Review Board		

d. Conducting External Peer Review. The relevant Planning Center(s) of Expertise will make the final determination as to whether or not External Peer Review is to be conducted. For this feasibility study, this decision is the responsibility of the PCX-CSDR and the Walla Walla Dx.

e. Public Comment on Decision Document. Once completed, the Integrated Feasibility Report and EIS will be disseminated to resource agencies, interest groups, and the public as part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) environmental compliance review. Please note where “FEIS / NEPA Public Review” is highlighted in the “Peer Review Plan” flow chart included as Attachment 1. Public entities and private individuals may also review and comment on draft documents as members of the PDT.

f. Provision of Public Comments to Reviewers. All significant and relevant public comments will be provided as part of the review package to Peer Reviewers as they are available and may include but not be limited to: scoping letters, meeting minutes, other received letters, and emails.

g. Anticipated Number of Reviewers.** The relevant Planning Center(s) of Expertise shall make the final determination for the number needed of reviewers. For this feasibility study, this decision is the responsibility of the PCX-CSDR and the Walla Walla Dx.

h. Primary Review Disciplines and Expertise. The number of reviewers (Level of Review) shall vary as depicted under “Review Phase” in the “Peer Review Plan” flow chart included as Attachment 1. The PCX-CSDR and the Walla Walla Dx shall make the final determination for the discipline type and number needed of reviewers depending upon the “Review Phase.”

PRELIMINARY REVIEW DISCIPLINES FOR ITR**
Plan Formulation
Environmental / NEPA Compliance
Hydrology & Hydraulics
Cost Estimating

Philpott Section 216 Feasibility Study proceeds, additional reviewing disciplines will be added.

i. Selection of External Peer Reviewers. The relevant Planning Center(s) of Expertise and associated Vertical Team shall make the final determination for the discipline type and number needed of reviewers as well as which if any External Peer

Reviewers are needed. For this feasibility study, this decision is the responsibility of the PCX-CSDR and the Walla Walla Dx.

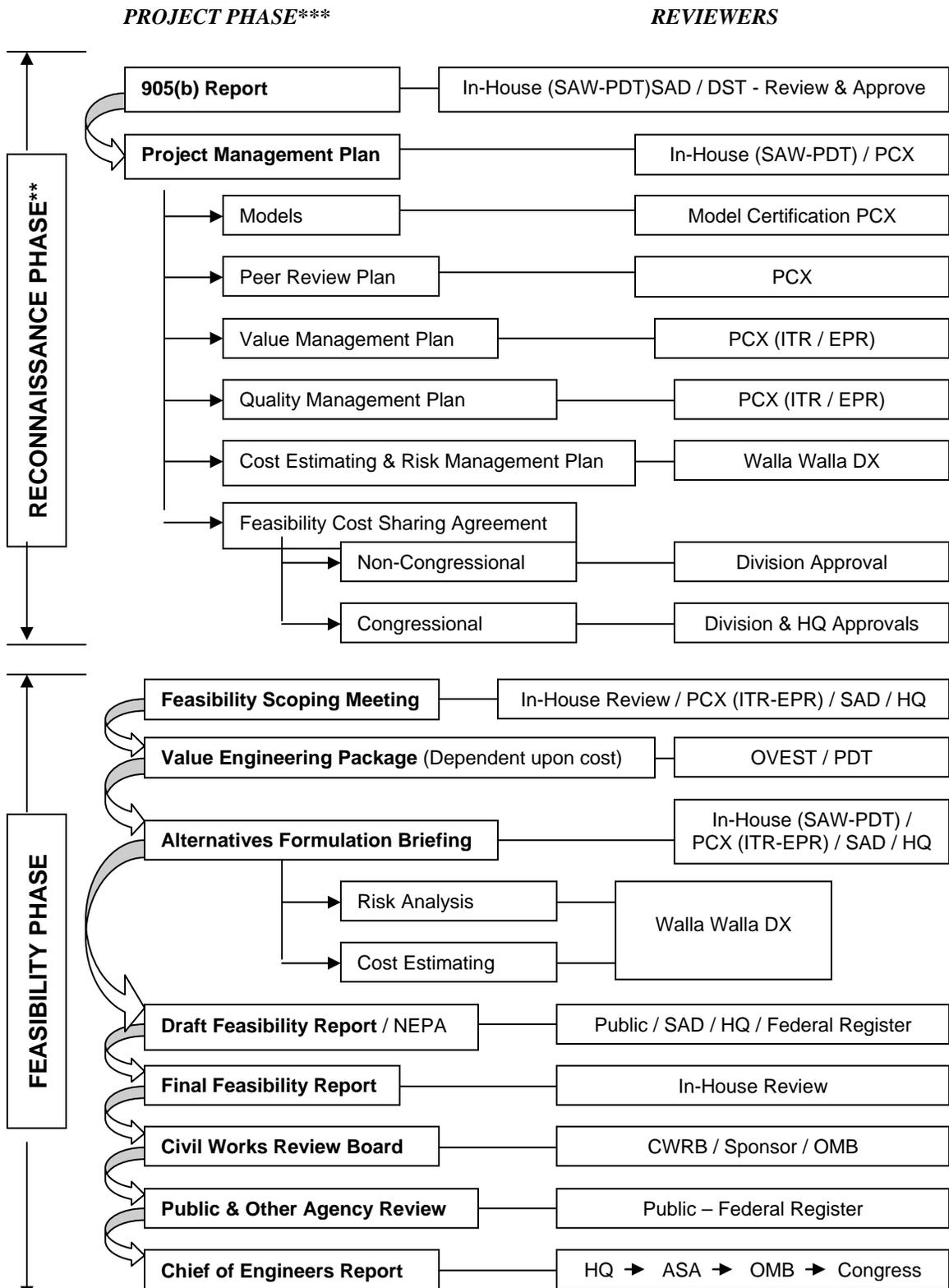
j. Nomination of Peer Reviewers by the Public. The PCX-CSDR and the Walla Walla Dx shall determine if Peer Reviewers will be nominated by the Public. The public will have opportunities to review the Integrated Feasibility Report/EIS as required by the NEPA compliance process.

** See Attachment 2

ATTACHMENT 1

PEER REVIEW PLAN

PEER REVIEW PLAN*



* Reference External Peer Review Decision Checklist in Section b., questions 1 - 5: if any changes occur in checklisted items, the vertical team will determine if External Peer Review (EPR) will be required. A decision regarding EPR is requested in writing from SAD and HQ Regional Integration Team Leader (RIT).

**A Scoping Letter during the Reconnaissance Phase provides the Public the opportunity to share any known concerns.

***The Project Delivery Team (PDT) includes the non-Federal Sponsor, stakeholders, and resource agencies.

ATTACHMENT 2

ITR APPROVAL REQUEST

Establishment of ITR responsibility has been an evolving process. Skilled and experienced personnel who have not been associated with the development of the Philpott Feasibility Study products will be requested by Wilmington District Plan Formulation and Economics Section. The following disciplines have been identified during the initial process. Additional disciplines will be added as deemed appropriate.

- ✓ **Planning Formulation**
- ✓ **Economics/Cost Effectiveness and Incremental Analysis**
- ✓ **Hydraulic and Hydrology**
- ✓ **Environmental Restoration and NEPA Compliance**