



PRESS RELEASE

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PRESIDENT'S FY20 BUDGET REQUEST CUTS U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS FUNDING BY 31 PERCENT

Washington, DC – Waterways Council, Inc. (WCI) reacted to the Trump Administration's release of an outline of its top-line FY20 budget numbers yesterday. Today, the Corps of Engineers released its account and project-specific funding levels.

For the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Civil Works program, the FY20 budget proposes \$4.827 billion, a 31% cut from the FY19 appropriated amount of \$7.0 billion.

Inland Waterways Trust Fund (IWTF) proposed funding in FY20 is \$55.5 million, with a total of \$111 million requested for the Lower Mon Project (Monongahela River, Pittsburgh), funding it to completion. Congress appropriated \$329.8 million for five IWTF-funded projects in the FY19 minibus appropriations bill, despite the fact that in FY19, the President's request for Construction was just \$35 million for the Olmsted project. Congress increased that \$35 million FY19 amount by 842.3%, enabling efficient funding for Lower Mon, Kentucky Lock (confluence of the Tennessee and Ohio Rivers), Chickamauga Lock (Tennessee River), and funding to completion for Olmsted Locks and Dam (Ohio River) and for major rehabilitation of LaGrange Lock (Illinois Waterway). If the President's FY20 budget is accepted, Lower Mon would be the only IWTF project receiving FY20 funding, while Kentucky Lock and Chickamauga Lock would go unfunded.

The FY20 budget again proposes a Per-Vessel Charge on the inland waterways, expected to raise \$178 million annually that would be in addition to the current diesel fuel tax commercial operators pay. The FY20 budget also seeks to have commercial operators pay for 10% of Operations & Maintenance (O&M) funding, historically a Federal responsibility.

The FY20 budget proposes \$3.025 billion for O&M, and \$148 million for Mississippi Rivers & Tributaries (MR&T). Inland O&M received \$705 million in the FY20 request.

The FY20 request also included \$24.1 million for a deficiency correction at Mel Price Lock and Dam on the Mississippi River.

The Investigations account is proposed to receive \$82 million in FY20, with \$1.5 million going toward Pre-Construction Engineering and Design for the Three Rivers Project in Arkansas.

The FY20 budget proposes \$965 million derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, down from the FY19 appropriated level of \$1.55 billion.

WCI President & CEO Mike Toohey said, “Not unexpected based on past Office of Management and Budget requests from any Administration, the FY20 proposal is still very disappointing considering the President’s many positive pronouncements on the importance of infrastructure investment.”

Waterways Council, Inc. is the national public policy organization advocating for a modern and well-maintained national system of ports and inland waterways. The group is supported by waterways carriers, shippers, port authorities, agriculture, labor and conservation organizations, shipping associations and waterways advocacy groups from all regions of the country. Visit www.waterwayscouncil.org