



## Corps Gets Funding Boosts in FY 2018 and FY 2019



On May 16, the House Appropriations Committee approved, by a vote of 29-20, the Fiscal Year 2019 Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. The legislation provides annual funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, national defense nuclear weapons activities, and other programs under the Department of Energy (DOE), and related agencies. The bill will next go to the House floor.

Very favorable, the \$44.7 billion total funding is \$1.5 billion above FY18 enacted levels and \$8.17 billion above the President's budget request.

The House bill provides overall funding for the Corps of Engineers at \$7.3 billion, an increase of \$451 million above the FY18 enacted level of \$6.8 billion. The bill provides \$3.3 billion for navigation programs, projects and studies, including \$1.6 billion in funding from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF) and full-use of estimated annual revenues from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund (IWTF).

The Construction account received \$2.3 billion or \$1.3 billion more than the President's FY19 request, and is \$200 million more than the FY18 enacted level.

The Corps' Operations & Maintenance (O&M) account received a record-level of \$3.8 billion in funding, which is \$700 million more than the Administration's request for FY19, and is \$200 million more than the FY18 enacted level. Inland O&M received \$810 million, a \$50 million increase above the President's budget request for FY19.

The Investigations account received \$128 million or \$45 million above the FY19

Administration request, and \$5 million more than the FY18 enacted level.

There is report language in the House bill that states that it is not the intent of Congress, but if the Corps decides to fund an economic re-evaluation of the Navigation & Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP), it must be completed by January 1, 2020.

WCI recognized the strong, bipartisan

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leadership of House Appropriations Committee Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ) and Ranking Member Nita Lowey (D-NY), and Energy & Water Development (E&WD) Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Mike Simpson (R-ID) and Ranking Member Marcy Kaptur (D-OH) for these strong funding outcomes.

At press time, the Senate was expected to mark up the bill by the end of May.

The very positive FY2019 House funding was on top of the good news in March of the passage and signing into law of the FY2018 Omnibus Appropriations Bill. After the House passed the bill by a vote of 256-167,

the Senate approved it 65-32. The Omnibus bill included record funding for the Corps in the FY2018 Energy & Water Development section at \$6.83 billion, an increase of \$789 million from FY2017 appropriated funding, and a 36% increase above the President's FY2018 budget request of \$5.002 billion.

The FY18 Omnibus bill included:

- Full-use of estimated annual IWTF revenues, plus additional balances from the IWTF with at least \$399 million to be made available for priority navigation projects in FY2018, a 128% increase over the Administration's request of \$175 million.
- The Construction account received \$2.085 billion, more than doubling the \$1.02 billion proposed in the FY2018 budget request.
- The O&M account increased to \$3.63 billion or 17.1% above the initial budget request of \$3.1 billion.
- The Investigations account was allocated \$123 million, up 43% from the President's request of \$86 million.
- HMTF was funded at \$1.4 billion, 50% above the President's request of \$933 million.
- On NESP, due to the earmark constraints within Congress, the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) will have the ability to provide additional investigation dollars to preconstruction engineering and design (PED), but at press time the Corps had not yet released its work plan (due May 23).
- The bill did not include a 10-year, \$1.037 billion user fee to be paid by commercial operators on the inland waterways. The proposal was included in the President's FY2018 budget request and was strongly opposed by WCI.

We also look forward to the development of Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) legislation for 2018 ahead. At press time, the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee had planned to mark up the bill known as "America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018" on May 23. The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee had scheduled its mark-up on May 24. [www.waterwayscouncil.org](http://www.waterwayscouncil.org)



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