

# Let's get 'er done, inland



The Kentucky Lock and Dam is one of several projects receiving funding from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund.

- Helena Harbor - \$581,000
- Baton Rouge Harbor, Devil's Swamp - \$69,000
- Greenville Harbor - \$1.33 million
- Vicksburg Harbor - \$1.04 million
- Memphis Harbor - \$2.44 million

The Operations and Maintenance account was allocated \$5.71 billion, which was a \$3.24 billion increase from the President's FY25 request.

A report accompanying the bill expressed concern with the uncertainties and unknowns of the Corps plan to implement remote lock operations and requires the Corps to provide a briefing on any plans to the House Appropriations Committee no later than 90 days after enactment of the FY25 E&WD appropriations bill.

At press time, markup of the FY25 E&WD appropriations bill in the Senate was expected during the last week of July. To save time, the Senate has an option of releasing draft text of the bill, skipping a Subcommittee markup, and heading straight to full Committee markup.

The E&WD bill usually receives broad bipartisan support; so, let's keep the faith that Congress can pass this one with record FY25 levels to fund the Corps and avoid a CR to fund them at FY24 levels.

**W**hile the Chairs of the House and Senate Appropriations committees have said they intend to pass all 12 appropriations bills before the September 30 end of the FY25 fiscal year, time is running short for Congress to cross the finish line in time, which could portend another Continuing Resolution (CR) to fund the government until all bills are finalized or rolled into a larger omnibus bill.

The House Appropriations Committee did its part on July 9, marking up and passing the Energy & Water Development (E&WD) and Related Agencies appropriations bill, which included \$9.96 billion for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Civil Works mission—a record funding level.

FY25 E&WD funding was \$1.28 billion above last year's (FY24) enacted level and provided \$423 million for construction and major rehabilitation projects on the inland waterways system. There were no new starts for any projects across all Corps of Engineers sectors in the bill.

For the FY25 Construction Account, \$3.01 billion was appropriated, an increase of \$1.05 billion from the FY25 President's budget request.

And while inland waterways construction and major rehabilitation projects received another strong year of funding at \$423 million, at least \$148 million will come from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund to specifically fund the following:

- Kentucky Lock and Dam, Tennessee

River, Ky. - \$218 million, requested by Cong. Comer, (KY-01)

- Navigation & Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP) - \$54 million, which will all go toward ecosystem restoration efforts, requested by Cong. S. Graves (MO-06), Luetkemeyer (MO-03), Sorensen (IL-17), and Budzinski (IL-13). (which will be used for the environmental portion of NESP)

The remaining funding for inland waterways construction is contained in an additional funding pot that the Corps will allocate in its FY25 work plan that will be released 60 days after enactment of the final E&WD appropriations bill.

The Corps' Investigations account received \$159 million, up \$48.42 million from the FY25 President's budget request. Specifically funding the following projects:

- St. Anthony Falls, Lock and Dam 1, Mississippi River, Minn. - \$100,000
- Upper St. Anthony Falls, Mississippi River, Minn. - \$50,000

The Mississippi River and Tributaries (MR&T) account received \$370 million, which represents a \$125.16 million increase from the President's FY25 budget request to fund inland waterways projects that include the following:

- Channel Improvement funding for Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee - \$81.18 million



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