



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Portland District

# INFORMATIONAL PUBLIC NOTICE

## Wetland Delineation Prioritization And Procedure Processes

Issue Date: November 23, 1999

---

Interested parties are hereby notified of the Corps of Engineers' (Corps) wetland delineation prioritization and procedure processes to be utilized by the Portland District Regulatory Branch (District) in reviewing permit applications under the Corps' regulatory program.

1. Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) addressing the Corps' civil works regulatory program were implemented on May 8, 1999. These SOP are important to ensure a fair and reasonable implementation of the Corps' regulatory program; ensure that the program is properly funded in the future; and assist in documenting accurately what level of service the Corps is able to provide with current resource allocation to the program.
2. Wetland delineation are essential to timely and accurate processing and evaluation of permit applications, while also being resource intensive and often requiring an inordinate amount of time for review.
3. Item 3 of Part I of the SOP addresses wetland delineation prioritization. Corps' Districts are directed to prioritize their delineation efforts as follows: (a) verification of delineation received with an application for permit; (b) preparation of field delineation for minor ("Mom and Pop") operations (those applicants whom, in the district's judgement, cannot afford to hire a consultant and have a piece of property less than about 1/4 acre) where there is an application for permit; (c) preparation of field delineation for larger operations (generally those over about 1/4 acre) where there is an application for permit; (d) verification of delineation where there is no application for permit; and (e) preparation of field delineation where there is no application for permit. For clarification, **verification means the review and approval of wetland delineation prepared by entities other than the Corps** and **preparation means a delineation prepared by the Corps.**
4. Part II of the SOP provides a corporate prioritization of types of activities Corps' Districts administer in the regulatory program. These priorities are either ***above the line*** or ***below the line***. Above the line activities are those that all Corps' Districts will be actively involved in and below the line activities are those that may (to varying degrees) or ***may*** not be accomplished, ***only after the above the line activities are fully executed***. Part II of the SOP iterates that ***field wetland delineation for non-minor projects are below the line***.
5. Considering staffing capabilities and time availability and in consideration of guidance given in the SOP, the following policy regarding wetland delineation review has been developed for the Portland District's Regulatory Branch **EFFECTIVE THE DATE OF THIS PUBLIC**

**NOTICE: highest priority and most rapid review and concurrence will occur with delineation (minor projects and others) accompanying an application for permit to fill wetlands.** All other requests for delineation or certifications received will be returned, as they are considered below the line and most likely will never receive a review by the District.

6. For the most prompt attention, the Portland District's Regulatory Branch encourages ***all*** individuals or firms interested in approvals of wetland delineation to secure the services of a reputable consulting firm versed in all aspects of conducting wetland delineation. Those delineations should accompany an application for permit form (to fill wetland). Materials should be submitted to the below address. Incoming requests will go to the project manager assigned to that particular area.
7. Written questions regarding this informational public notice should be mailed to the following address:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
ATTN: CENWP-OP-G  
P.O. Box 2946  
Portland, Oregon 97208-2946