Geographic Information Systems

Agency	***Assistance Provided***
Department of Agriculture	Staff Technical Assistance, Classroom Training, Field Training
Bureau of Indian Affairs	Staff Technical Assistance Training Systems
Army Corps of Engineers	Cost Sharing, Field Training, Staff Technical Assistance, Classroom Training, Grant Funding
Bureau of Reclamation	Grant Funding, Staff Technical Assistance, Field Training, Cost Sharing

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Soil Survey

Geographic Information Systems

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

AUTHORIZATION: Public Law 74-46; Public Law 89-560.

OBJECTIVES: To maintain up to date published soil surveys and other forms of soil survey databases of counties or other comparable size areas for widespread use by interested agencies, organizations, and individuals and to assist in the use of this information.

TYPES OF ASSISTANCE: Dissemination of Technical Information.

USES AND USE RESTRICTIONS: Soil surveys are for planners, environmentalists, engineers, zoning commissions, tax commissions, homeowners, farmers, ranchers, developers, landowners, and operators who use them to evaluate soil suitability for homesites, subdivisions, commercial and industrial sites, farms, wildlife and recreational areas, prime agricultural land, hydric soils, highly erodible lands, highways, and airports and to select and implement appropriate use and treatment of those soils.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

Applicant Eligibility: All individuals and groups that have a need for soil surveys are eligible to receive these documents by contacting the local Natural Resources Conservation Service Office.

Beneficiary Eligibility: All individuals and groups that have a need for soil surveys are eligible to receive these documents.

Credentials/Documentation: None.

APPLICATION AND AWARD PROCESS:

Preapplication Coordination: This program is excluded from coverage under E.O. 12372.

Application Procedure: Applicants may request information from the local office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Soil Conservation Districts, Extension Service, the State office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, State Agricultural Experiment Station and from Senators and Congressmen. Local units of government submit requests to State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, see Appendix IV in the Catalog for addresses. Soil Conservation District (SCD) cooperators submit requests to SCD board of supervisors.

Award Procedure: Not applicable.

Deadlines: None.

Range of Approval/Disapproval Time: Not applicable.

Appeals: Not applicable.

Renewals: Not applicable.

ASSISTANCE CONSIDERATIONS:

Formula and Matching Requirements: Not applicable.

Length and Time Phasing of Assistance: Not applicable.

POST ASSISTANCE REQUIREMENTS:

Reports: Not applicable.

Audits: Not applicable.

Records: Not applicable.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Account Identification: 12-1000-0-1-302.

Obligations: (Salaries and expenses) FY 96 $75,926,720; FY 97 est $76,409,000; and FY 98 est $82,248,000.

Range and Average of Financial Assistance: Not applicable.

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS: In fiscal year 1996, 9,413,183 acres of new soil surveys were

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completed and 8,323,203 acres of outdated soil surveys were updated. Estimates for fiscal year 1997 are 17,000,000 acres and fiscal year 1998, 17,000,000 acres.

REGULATIONS, GUIDELINES, AND LITERATURE: "List of Published Soil Surveys;" "Know the Soil You Build On," AIB 320; "Know Your Soil," AIB 267; "Soil Surveys Can Help You," PA-1054. These publications are available from the Office of Public Affairs, NRCS-USDA, P.O. Box 2890, Washington, DC 20013, at no charge.

INFORMATION CONTACTS:

Regional or Local Office: Consult the local telephone directory where your land is located for location of the USDA service center.

Headquarters Office: Deputy Chief For Soil Science and Resource Assessment, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 2890, Washington, DC 20013. Telephone: (202) 720-4630.

RELATED PROGRAMS: 10.902, Soil and Water Conservation; 10.904, Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention.

EXAMPLES OF FUNDED PROJECTS: Not applicable.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTING PROPOSALS: Not applicable.

revised May 1998

TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE - INDIAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

(Self-Determination Training and Technical Assistance)

Geographic Information Systems

AUTHORIZATION: Public Law 93-638, Section 103, as amended, 88 Stat. 2203.

OBJECTIVES: To aid Indian Tribes to exercise self-determination in accord with Public Law 93-638.

TYPES OF ASSISTANCE: Project Grants (Contracts); Advisory Services and Counseling; Provision of Specialized Services; Training.

USES AND USE RESTRICTIONS: Use is restricted to activities which further Indian Self-Determination according to Public Law 93-638 and implementing regulations: Provide training and technical assistance options; enhance tribes' understanding of the Act; help develop skills needed to utilize options; enhance capability to contract for Bureau and other Federal programs; strengthen tribal government; utilize Personnel use options; and improve capabilities to direct Bureau and other Federal programs. The Bureau is obligated to offer a tribe training and technical assistance to overcome grounds for declining to contract with a tribe. Also, regulations mandate other instances in the contracting and grant process where technical assistance is offered to tribes. In all instances, tribes are free to accept or reject such offers. Counseling and advisory services are dependent upon availability of Bureau/Federal personnel. Financial assistance is dependent upon funds available within each Area and establishment of tribal priority needs within the Area.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

Applicant Eligibility: Governing body of any federally recognized Indian tribe.

Beneficiary Eligibility: Federally recognized Indian tribes.

Credentials/Documentation: A tribal request in the form of a resolution or some other form in accord with the tribal constitution or current practice shall accompany the request. For construction contracts, Federal Acquisition Regulations or Contract procedures of Public Law 93-638 may apply; for grants, costs will be determined in accordance with OMB Circular No. A-87, except as noted in Appendix A of 25 CFR.

APPLICATION AND AWARD PROCESS:

Preapplication Coordination: Informal preapplication conference is recommended. The standard application forms, as furnished by the Federal agency and required by OMB Circular No. A-102, must be used for this program. This program is excluded from coverage under E.O. 12372.

Application Procedure: Submit the following to BIA Agency Superintendent: (1) Part I - Public Law 93-638 Grant Application; (2) Part II - Narrative Statement; (3) Part III - Budget Data; (4) Part IV-(Construction Program Only): (5) Must be accompanied by Tribal Resolution. (Contact Agency Office for forms and instructions. This program is excluded from coverage under OMB Circutar No. A-110.

Award Procedure: Grant application approved or disapproved by Area Director within 60 days. Notification in writing to tribal governing body, followed by final grant agreement negotiation and approval.

Deadlines: Announced annually by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Range of Approval/Disapproval Time: 60 days.

Appeals: In accordance with 25 CFR Part 2.

Renewals: Subject to availability of funds.

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ASSISTANCE CONSIDERATIONS:

Formula and Matching Requirements: Not applicable; grants awarded on a competitive basis.

Length and Time Phasing of Assistance: 1 year renewals. Small grants may be awarded in lump sum, larger grants use treasury advance, cost reimbursement or a Letter of Credit.

POST ASSISTANCE REQUIREMENTS:

Reports: 1) Report of Federal Cash Transactions due within 15 days following the end of each quarter unless otherwise specified in grant agreement; (2) Performance report required along with Financial Status report; and, (3) Final Expenditure report due 90 days after end of grant period.

Audits: In accordance with the provisions of OMB Circular No. A-128, "Audits of State and Local Governments," State and local governments that receive financial assistance of $100,000 or more within the State's fiscal year shall have an audit made for that year. State and local governments that receive between $25,000 and $100,000 within the State's fiscal year shall have an audit made in accordance with Circular No. A-128, or in accordance with Federal laws and regulations governing the program in which they participate.

Records: Records to be maintained for 3 years after completion of project activity.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Account Identification: 14-2100-0-1-452.

Obligation: (Grants) FY 95 $O; FY 96 est $O; and FY 97 est $O.

Range and Average of Financial Assistance: Up to $35,000 per grant.

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Tribes have accomplished a variety of projects to provide orientation and training of tribal leaders in the implementation of Public Law 93-638; tribes have provided specialized technical assistance to tribal managers, program directors, accountants and other administrative staff, and provided specialized assistance to aid tribes in contracting and for related purposes essential to tribal self-detemination. This program received no funding during FY 1995.

REGULATIONS, GUIDELINES, AND LITERATURE: 25 CFR 272, 278; Procedural Guidelines for the Self-Determination Grants Program; Handbook for Decision Makers.

]INFORMATION CONTACTS:

Regional or Local Office: Contact Superintendent at nearest BIA Agency Office.

Headquarters Office: Division Chief, James J. Thomas, Office of Indian Services, Code 480, Division of Self-Detemination Services, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240. Telephone: (202) 208-5727. Use the same number for FTS.

RELATED PROGRAMS: None.

EXAMPLES OF FUNDED PROJECTS: A tribe commences a youth counseling service to reduce delinquency and improve its law and other programs. A tribe revises in constitution and by-laws to improve its government structure. A tribe updates its membership rules as basis for service. A tribe conducts service and evaluation of BIA programs in order to prepare program modifications.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTING PROPOSALS: Eligible proposal, funded up to the allocated program amount for each tribal government.

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INDIVIDUALLY AUTHORIZED STUDIES AND PROJECTS

Geographic Information Systems

US Army Corps of Engineers

PLANNING AND AUTHORIZATION PROCESS FOR WATER RESOURCES PROJECTS:

Water resources activities are initiated by local interests, authorized by Congress, funded by Federal and non-Federal sources, and constructed by the Corps under the Civil Works Program. The Water Resources Development Act of 1986 made numerous changes in the way potential new water resource projects are studied, evaluated, and funded.

When governments believe a need exists for improved navigation, flood protection, or other water resources development, they may petition their representatives in Congress. A Congressional committee resolution or an Act of Congress may then authorize the Corps of Engineers to investigate the problems and submit a report. Water resources studies, except those concerning the inland waterway navigation system, are conducted in partnership with a non-Federal sponsor, with the Corps and the sponsor jointly funding and managing the study.

For inland navigation and waterway projects, which are by their nature not "local," Congress established, in the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, an Inland Waterway Users Board comprised of waterway transportation companies and shippers of major commodities. This Board advises the Secretary of the Army and makes recommendations on priorities for new navigation projects (e.g., locks and dams, channel improvements, etc.). Such projects are funded in part from the Inland Waterway Trust Fund, which in turn is fed by waterway fuel taxes.

Normally, the study process for a water resource problem will include public meetings to determine the views of local interests on the extent and type of improvements believed necessary. The desires of local interests and the views of Federal, State, Tribal, and other agencies receive full consideration during the planning process.

Considerations that enter into recommendations to Congress for project authorization include determinations that (1) the benefits will exceed costs and (2)the engineering design of the project is sound, best serves the needs of the people concerned and makes the wisest possible use of the natural resources involved. A report, along with a final National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document is then submitted to higher authority for review and recommendations. After review and coordination with all interested Federal agencies and Governors of affected States and Tribes, the Chief of Engineers forwards the report and environmental statement to the Secretary of the Army, who obtains the views of the Office of Management and Budget before transmitting these documents to Congress.

If Congress includes the project in an authorization bill, enactment of the bill constitutes authorization of the project. Before construction can get under-way, however, both the Federal government and the local project sponsor must provide funds and meet other requirements of local cooperation. Budget recommendations are based on evidence of support by the State and by the ability and willingness of non-Federal sponsors to provide their share of the project cost.

Appropriation of money to build a particular project is usually included in the annual Energy and Water Development Appropriation Bill which must be approved by both Houses of the Congress and the President.

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CONTINUING AUTHORITIES

Geographic Information Systems

US Army Corps of Engineers

OVERVIEW:

Congress has provided the Corps with six standing authorities to study and build water resource projects for specific purposes and with specified limits on how much Federal money can be spent for a project. The process and rules, such as cost sharing, that apply to individually authorized studies and projects also apply to this Program, except that individual Congressional authorizations are not needed. This saves development and approval time, and permits quicker responses.

Emergency Streambank and Shoreline Erosion: Authorized by Section 14 of the 1946 Flood Control Act, as amended; the Federal share may not exceed $1,000,000 for each project. This authority allows emergency streambank and shoreline protection for public facilities, such as roads, bridges, hospitals, schools, and water/sewage treatment plants, that are in imminent danger of failing.

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PLANNING ASSISTANCE TO THE STATES AND INDIAN TRIBES

Geographic Information Systems

US Army Corps of Engineers

OVERVIEW:

The Planning Assistance to States (and Indian Tribes) Program, also known as the Section 22 Program, is authorized by Section 22 of the 1974 Water Resources Development Act. This program authorizes the Corps to use its technical expertise in management of water and related land resources to help States and Indian Tribes deal with their water resource problems. Upon request, the Corps of Engineers will cooperate with States and Indian Tribes in the preparation of plans for the development, utilization, and conservation of water and related land resources located within the boundaries of the State or reservation. Assistance is given within the limits of available appropriations, however, $500,000 is the maximum available annually to any State or Indian Tribe. Studies must be cost shared 50-50 with one (or more) non-Federal sponsor and are usually completed within 12 months from the initiation of the study (or sooner if negotiated with the sponsor(s). Larger studies may be divided into phases, with each phase completed within 12 months or less.

OBJECTIVES:

The objective of the Planning Assistance to States (and Indian Tribes) Program is to support the states and tribes in their comprehensive planning for the development, utilization and conservation of water and related land resources. The program can also be used to assist States and Tribes in developing or revising a State or Tribal Water Plan. The State's or Tribe's annual request for assistance in addressing these resource problems is used to develop the Corps study program for that year. A State's or Tribe's eligibility for planning assistance is determined by comparing the requested work items to the State's or Tribe's water and related land resources plan.

TYPES OF ACTIVITIES:

Typical activities studied under this Program are flood damage reduction, flood warning plans, water quality, water supply, erosion, hydropower, backwater restoration, wetlands analysis, recreation, and navigation. Studies vary in scope from environmental investigations for an individual reservoir to a comprehensive study to establish a State or Tribal Water Budget.

STUDY PROCEDURES:

1. Mutually understood goals for a work item and conformance to State or Tribal plan are agreed upon before the Corps begins planning assistance. The State or Tribe participates in developing the scope of work, cost estimate, and coordinates state and local agency involvement in accomplishing work items.

2. A State or Tribal work request should be regional and comprehensive in scope or be a part of a larger study being performed by the State or Tribe.

3. Planning assistance may include review and update of information from authorized studies not currently funded, provided the assistance conforms to the State or Tribal plan. The assistance may not be used to further ongoing or pending Corps programs, such as comprehensive studies, feasibility studies, or small projects under continuing authorities. If a study identifies a potential construction project with Federal interest, the study will be transferred to the appropriate Corps program.

4. The Planning Assistance To States and Indian Tribes Program may help States or Tribes in support of the Coastal Zone Management Act or the Flood Plain Management Services Program when the primary purpose is to supplement basin-wide or regional State or Tribal planning for the coastal zone or flood plains.

REQUEST FOR PLANNING ASSISTANCE:

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Local and regional officials who are interested in assistance for their communities and who are willing to share the study costs should contact their State or Tribal water resources agency. All requests must be requested through the State or Tribal coordinator for the program. The coordinator compiles the requests in accordance with Corps guidance for the yearly submission. The Corps District then accommodates as many studies as possible within the funding allotment and negotiates agreements including arrangements for 50 percent of the study cost with the non-Federal sponsors requesting the assistance.

REIMBURSABLE SUPPORT PROGRAM

Geographic
Information Systems

US Army Corps
of Engineers

OVERVIEW:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is authorized by Congress to provide reimbursable assistance to Native American governments as well as other Federal agencies, state/local/territorial governments, private firms and international organizations. Under this program the Corps manages approximately $700,000,000 of work each year by providing quality engineering, environmental, construction management, real estate, research and development and related services.

Customers or sponsors provide full funding for the effort, and retain control and legal responsibility for their program. The Corps executes within the terms of a mutually agreed scope of work, while helping to ensure timely project completion within budget.

Supporting others enables the Corps to maintain and enhance its capabilities. The diversity of work allows us to apply design and construction expertise in new and innovative ways.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) recognizes the value of the work performed by the Corps and supports the program by providing full-time-equivalent (FTE) resourcing specifically for this mission. The Administration considers this program an example of a business-like practice and supports it in the National Performance Review with the recommendation to "maximize the use of the Corps planning, engineering and contract management capabilities in support of other Federal agency programs."

GOALS:

The goal of the program is to apply Corps capabilities to assist others in the execution of their missions, not to take away their work. Many agencies do not possess technical expertise to fulfill the in-house engineering needs of their programs. Furthermore, many do not have the staff to effectively manage environmental, engineering or construction work being conducted by private firms under contract. The Corps can fill that void.

The Corps commits to support a customer only after making certain that adequate resources and technical skills are available to ensure absolute customer satisfaction.

The Corps negotiates an interagency agreement (IA) or memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the customer before starting work. Customer's needs are the main focus in developing and tailoring the agreements and executing the work. Additionally, customers have no obligation to provide work to the Corps. The customer decides whether or not to use the Corps and to what extent. This provides extra incentive for the Corps to provide quality service.

One of the main goals is to conduct this program in partnership, not in competition, with the private sector. The Corps relies heavily on the talents of private firms to execute this mission. While relying on the private sector for technical expertise, the Corps functions as an extension of the agency's staff providing expert government presence and oversight to protect the customer's interests. This capability relieves the agency of the burden of hiring and training specialists to perform these functions. As a result, the customer gains the Corps proven contract management experience and effectiveness in the execution of their missions while saving them money and work force.

More information about this program is available from the regional Corps District office.

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FLOOD PLAIN MANAGEMENT SERVICES PROGRAM

Geographic Information Systems

US Army Corps of Engineers

OVERVIEW:

The Corps of Engineers through its Flood Plain Management Services Program uses its technical expertise in flood plain management to help those outside the Corps to deal with floods and flood plain related matters. Section 206 of the Flood Control Act of 1960, as amended, provides the authority for this program. Upon request and without charge, the Corps of Engineers will furnish to States, Federally recognized Indian Tribes, counties, and cities the flood plain information and technical assistance that they need to plan for prudent use of land subject to flooding from streams, lakes, and oceans. Assistance is given within the limits of available appropriations, which have averaged around $8 million annually over the last five years. Assistance is also available to Federal agencies and private persons on a fully reimbursable basis.

OBJECTIVES:

The objective of the Flood Plain Management Services (FPMS) Program is to support comprehensive flood plain management planning with technical services and planning guidance at all appropriate Tribal, State, regional, and local governmental levels; and thereby, to encourage and to guide them toward prudent use of the Nation's flood plains for the benefit of the national economy and welfare. Adjustment of land use based on proper planning and employment of a variety of techniques for reducing flood damage potential constitutes a rational means by which the locational advantages and natural resources of flood plains can be balanced with the inevitable hazards which floods pose.

TYPES OF ACTIVITIES:

Upon request, the FPMS Program provides a full range of technical services and planning guidance on floods and flood plain issues within the broad umbrella of flood plain management. Involvement of requestors is encouraged. They may furnish field survey data, maps, historical flood information and the like. Such participation by requestors can help to reduce costs to the general public, to set work priorities, and to assure continued community interest. Activities under the Corps FPMS Program are described in the following paragraphs.

GENERAL TECHNICAL SERVICES:

Flood and flood plain related data are obtained or developed and interpreted. Topics include: flood formation and timing, flood depth or stage, flood-water velocity, extent of flooding, duration of flooding, flood frequency, obstruction to flood flows, "regulatory floodways," natural and cultural resource values of note, and flood loss potentials before and after employment of flood plain management measures.

GENERAL PLANNING GUIDANCE:

Planning assistance and guidance is provided for implementing or meeting requirements of: flood plain regulations; flood warning and flood emergency preparedness; hurricane evacuation planning; flood proofing measures (e.g., elevation, closures and seals, and anchorage); permanent evacuation and relocation; and the National Flood Insurance Program. The Corps assists in all aspects of flood plain management planning. This can range from helping a community identify the future of the flood plain and related problems (present or future), to a broad assessment of remedial measures (of both the flood modifying and occupance modifying varieties) that may be appropriate. Included are the possible impacts of off-flood plain land use changes on the physical, socio-economic and environmental conditions of the flood plain.

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GUIDANCE, PAMPHLETS AND SUPPORTING STUDIES:

The Program includes studies to improve methods and procedures for mitigating flood damages and the preparation of guides and pamphlets on topics such as flood proofing, flood plain regulations, flood plain occupance, economics of flood plain regulations, and important natural flood plain resources. Guides and pamphlets are prepared for use by tribal, state and local governments in planning and in taking action to reduce flood damages or damage potentials as part of a flood plain management program.

TYPES OF STUDIES/ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED UNDER THE FPMS PROGRAM:

* Dam Break Analyses
* Flood Warning/Preparedness ans Forecast Studies
* Floodway and Floodway Impact Studies
* Flood Plain Delineation /Flood Hazard Evaluation Studies
* Flood Damage Reduction Studies (Local Implementation)
* Alluvial Fan Studies
* Stormwater Management Studies
* Flood Proofing Alternatives Studies
* Comprehensive Flood Plain Management Studies
* Computer Automated Flood Hazard Data

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Reclamation Programs

Geographic
Information Systems

ENVIRONMENTAL AREA: The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has technical programs in two main areas: Resource Management and Resource Development. The primary authorization for Reclamation's programs is the Reclamation Act of 1902, as amended, though there are a large number of other laws that authorize specific programs and activities. Many of the programs under Reclamation are constrained by the need to seek specific Congressional authorizations and appropriations for individual projects and activities. It should be understood that though many Reclamation programs are already authorized, Congress does not always appropriate funds for them.

Under Resource Management, Reclamation has a number of programs that provide technical assistance to and/or partnership activities with State, Tribal, and local entities and with other Federal agencies. These programs are in keeping with Reclamation's mission as a major Federal water management agency.

RANGE AND TYPES OF ASSISTANCE: The main program specific to Tribal entities is the Native American Affairs Program (NAAP). This program has two primary activities - the Department of Interior (DOI) Water Rights Settlement Federal Teams, and Reclamation's Technical Assistance to Tribes. Reclamation participates on DOI's water rights settlement teams in both a technical and leadership capacity. Also within NAAP, technical assistance is provided to tribes to facilitate their water and water-related resources management efforts on reservations and in communities. A wide range of technical assistance activities have been accomplished in support of tribes, many of which will be covered in more detail later in this (text). One of the main activity areas has been providing technical assistance to tribes in assessing their water supply and treatment needs and then identifying potential solutions to those needs. Planning studies and investigations, such as Needs Assessments and Appraisal and Technical Studies, are accomplished through partnerships with the tribe. On-site water and wastewater infrastructure assessments are also accomplished by Reclamation technical specialists in concert with tribal resource managers.

Reclamation has a group of programs known as Water Management and Conservation Programs (WM&C). Within this group, the following types of assistance are available:

- Challenge Grants program
- Technical Assistance
- Workshops
- Assessments and Evaluations

Reclamation provides drought assistance, per P.L. 102-250, to rural and urban communities and other entities to help them with planning and implementation of drought mitigation measures. This is accomplished through grants and loans and through direct technical assistance by Reclamation technical specialists. This program is not funded on a permanent basis and funding may not be available in a given fiscal year.

The Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Studies Act (Title XVI, P.L. 102-575), authorizes Reclamation to perform Appraisal and Feasibility Studies for communities pertaining to application of water recycling technology to recycle wastewater and thereby extend use of limited surface and ground water supplies. Identified solutions may include treatment of wastewater for later use as water supply for industrial and other uses. Identified treatment technology may range from use of constructed wetlands to advanced physical/chemical treatment of the wastewater. Funding must be pursued on an individual study and/or project basis.

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OBJECTIVES: One of Reclamation's historic missions has been the operations and maintenance (O&M) of its many natural resources and existing facilities. These include: water storage and distribution facilities, hydropower facilities, recreational facilities, lands and natural habitats. The Reclamation Act of 1902, as amended, provides the original authority for its O&M Programs. Congress also directs Reclamation to provide O&M of specific facilities through passage of water project authorization legislation. Reclamation can only act on those authorities after Congress has appropriated funds for those O&M activities.

Reclamation's O&M of its facilities and resources are accomplished in two ways. Either Reclamation personnel accomplish the work or through contract/agreement with water districts and/or other entities for their personnel to perform the work.

Reclamation also provides technical assistance and training to other agencies and entities in the O&M area. This includes O&M of: hydropower generation and transmission facilities; water storage and distribution facilities; water treatment facilities; and water-related recreation facilities.

In order for Reclamation to ensure that its facilities are operated and maintained at a high level of structural and operational safety, regular technical reviews are conducted by Reclamation specialists of Reclamation's facilities. As authorized by P.L. 95-578, Reclamation conducts safety evaluations of existing dams (SEED program) and accomplishes corrections of identified safety deficiencies through its Safety of Dams (SOD) program. Because of its expertise in these areas, Reclamation is also DOI's lead bureau for these activities, and through funding from BIA conducts these activities on many dams on tribal lands.

Being a Federal agency, Reclamation is also active in meeting the requirements set forth by Congress for all Federal agencies. In the cultural resources management area, under the guidance of such laws as the National Historic Preservation Act, the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act, and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, Reclamation has been active in managing cultural resources on its lands and facilitating the management of cultural resources on other lands. Though Reclamation is primarily concerned with its own lands, technical assistance can be given to other agencies and entities in their own efforts.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA) also require Federal agencies to comply with certain environmental and coordination requirements. Reclamation accomplishes NEPA compliance activities for a wide range of Federal actions, and can assist other agencies and entities with their NEPA compliance activities.

The other main program area for Reclamation, Resource Development, is associated with construction and development of resources activities. One program, the Wetlands Development Program is accomplished in response to the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. This program includes wetlands/riparian habitat restoration, enhancement and development, and wetlands/riparian habitat evaluation and management. Reclamation has provided technical assistance to many other agencies and entities in these areas and currently works in partnership with others as well.

Reclamation's original mission, as directed by the Reclamation Act of 1902, was the development of water resources in the arid West, which effectively translated into construction of water storage dams, diversion dams, and water distribution systems for agricultural and domestic water supplies. Reclamation is recognized around the world for its expertise in development and construction of these kinds of facilities.

Though Reclamation's main mission is now resources management, rather than resources development, it still has several major construction projects going on today. The Mni Wiconi Project in South Dakota and on the Pine Ridge Reservation is currently being constructed, and there are distribution facilities (municipal, rural and industrial) being constructed on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation. The Animas-La Plata Project in Colorado and the Navajo Indian Irrigation Projects in the Four Corners area are also in various stages of construction. An example of an already constructed and operating water supply project is the WEB project in north-central South Dakota.

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Prior to actual construction of water projects, adequate planning and then feasibility analyses must be accomplished to the satisfaction of Congress before it will authorize a project. Once construction is authorized by specific legislation of Congress, construction still can not begin until Congress appropriates funds. Funds are appropriated on a yearly basis and are not guaranteed.

Reclamation is also involved in the planning and construction of municipal water recycling facilities, per Title XVI of P.L. 102-575. Construction of temporary technology demonstration projects is authorized under Title XVI and Reclamation is currently involved with several municipal and state partners in the planning and construction of these facilities.

As part of Reclamation's early development of water resources in the arid West, and because of increased demands for electricity by an rapidly expanding population, Reclamation has also constructed a large number of hydropower generation facilities on a number of its dams.. Some regional examples include Yellowtail Dam (Wyoming and Montana) and Boysen Dam (Wyoming).

This construction experience has enabled Reclamation to provide technical assistance, project construction management and oversight in those areas to other agencies and entities, including other countries around the world.

CONTACT: Additional Reclamation program information specific to tribes is available in the Reclamation Resource Manual issued in cooperation with the Mni Sose Intertribal Water Rights Coalition. Local office contacts and the areas they serve can also be found in the Reclamation Resource Manual or can be obtained from:

Mr. Ronald J. Eggers
Great Plains Regional Directors Office,
Special Assistant for Native American Affairs, P.O. Box 36900
Billings, Montana 59107-6900

phone (406) 247-7606.

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