



**US Army Corps
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Philadelphia District

NEWS RELEASE

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Corps of Engineers seeks public opinion on national water issues

Philadelphia - New York (August 8, 2000) — What do the people of Delaware, New Jersey, northeastern Maryland, New York and eastern Pennsylvania think are the most pressing future challenges regarding the nation's water? That's what the Army Corps of Engineers hopes to find out in a full-day listening session intended to gather information on national concerns.

The session will take place at the Hyatt Regency, 2 Albany Street, New Brunswick, N.J. on Aug. 17 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The public is invited to attend and lend their views regarding national water issues.

The session is not structured in a traditional public meeting format in which people read statements. Instead, people will discuss water-related issues in small groups guided by a professional facilitator. Discussions will center on many critical topics, such as flooding that continues to threaten communities, a national waterway highway system unable to meet 21st century demands, and a damaged environment in dire need of repair. People with statements may post them at the listening session and include them for the record.

Those who cannot attend a session may contribute by logging onto the "Join the Dialogue" website: www.wrsc.usace.army.mil/iwr/waterchallenges, or by calling the toll-free number 877-447-6342.

The information from the New Brunswick workshop will be combined with data from other sessions across the nation and will be used to refine the nation's water resources challenges, revise the Corps' goals regarding the civil works program, and identify gaps that need attention.

"All federal agencies have a responsibility to touch base with their customers and stakeholders to ensure wise use of public funds," said Maj. Gen. Hans A. Van Winkle, the Corps' deputy commander for civil works. "Our role here is simply to listen to those we serve and find out what's important to them."

One of the Corps' primary missions is to plan, design, build and operate water resources and other civil works projects that provide a variety of benefits to taxpayers. Among these are flood damage reduction, navigational improvements, environmental restoration, water quality and supply, hydroelectric power and recreation, and emergency management response to natural disasters and other national emergencies. The Corps operates and maintains almost 300 deep draft harbors, 275 locks and some 12,000 miles of navigable waterways.