



Water Resources Development Act
116th Congress

**REFORM BUREAUCRACY AND ACCELERATE DELIVERY OF WATER SUPPLY
REALLOCATION STUDIES**

Corps reservoirs are an increasingly important source of water supply storage for state and local governments. Providing storage for water supply may be the highest and best use of a portion of the storage in many existing Corps projects. Existing Corps procedures prevent storage from being reallocated to the water supply purpose, however, because the studies and approvals routinely take a decade or more to complete when undertaken by the Corps. These delays are causing state and local governments to pursue local alternatives, which are often sub-optimal from both an environmental and economic perspective—diverting limited resources from more valuable infrastructure projects and preventing important national benefits from being realized.

WRRDA 2014, Section 1001, set hard deadlines on the time and cost of most Corps of Engineers feasibility studies, commonly known as 3x3x3. Water supply storage reallocation studies are not covered by these reforms.

SMART Planning for Water Supply Reallocation Studies

- The Water Supply Act of 1958 authorizes the Corps to include storage for water supply in existing reservoirs by “reallocating” storage from other purposes. Congressional approval is required for any reallocation that would involve a “major operational change” or “seriously affect” the purposes for which the project was originally authorized. Before approving a reallocation, the Corps must conduct a “reallocation study” to ensure the reallocation is both authorized and justified.
- Reallocation studies take many years to complete—routinely a decade or more—due in part to funding constraints and lengthy process requirements.
- WRRDA 2014, Section 1001, codified the Corps’ SMART Planning framework, which requires the Corps to strive to complete feasibility studies within 3 years for under 3 million dollars. Water Supply Reallocation Studies were not covered by this important reform because they are not typically “feasibility studies.”
- Expanding Section 1001 of WRRDA accelerate reallocation studies. These deadlines will save time and money, give our State and local partners confidence in working with the Corps, and help to maximize the public benefits of existing federal infrastructure.

Draft Legislative Language

Sec __. Acceleration of Reallocation Studies

STUDIES. -- Section 1001 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 USC 2282c) is amended as follows:

- 1) By inserting the phrase “or reallocation study” after the phrase “feasibility study” each time that phrase appears in paragraphs (a), (b), and (d).
- 2) By inserting after paragraph (g) the following: “(h) As used in this Section, the term “reallocation study” means a study conducted to determine if reservoir storage should be allocated or reallocated to provide storage for municipal and industrial water supply pursuant to 33 USC 390b.”