

OPENING STATEMENT

The Honorable Ed Pastor
Vice Chairman, Energy and Water Development Subcommittee
House Committee on Appropriations

Hearing on the Corps of Engineers' FY 2011 Budget
February 24, 2010

Good afternoon. We have before us today the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, Jo Ellen Darcy. This is Ms. Darcy's first appearance before the Subcommittee, you've already provided valuable assistance to the committee and we look forward to continuing to work with you. Also today we have the Chief of Engineers, Lt. General Robert Van Antwerp, Major General William Grisoli and Mr. Gary Loew. They are here today to present the Administration's budget request for the Corps of Engineers.

I would also like to introduce Marie Vanderpoll. Marie has joined us for the year from the Corps' District Office in Fort Worth, and we are happy to have her.

The fiscal year 2011 budget request for the Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works program totals \$4.9 billion, a reduction of \$506 million from the fiscal year 2010 enacted level. As with most budgets for the Corps of Engineers, this budget is a disappointment. I understand that the Administration had to make difficult choices in a constrained fiscal environment, but providing adequate and efficient navigation channels and flood control to the nation are vital to our economy, and a factor to maintain and add jobs.

Ms. Darcy, I will be interested today in hearing your defense of the choices made in the Corps' fiscal year 2011 budget request, fiscal year 2010 execution and overall Corps management.

Ms. Darcy, I also would ask your assistance in ensuring that the hearing record, the questions for the record, and any supporting information requested by the Subcommittee are delivered in final form to the Subcommittee no later than four weeks from time you receive them. Members who have additional questions for the record will have until close of business tomorrow to provide them to the Subcommittee office.

With those opening comments, I would like to yield to our ranking member, Mr. Frelinghuysen, for any opening comments that he would like to make.