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Subject: [EXTERNAL] Update from the Chicago District Regulatory Branch
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Update from the Chicago District Regulatory Branch:

The Chicago District is refining its workload priorities with regard to stand-alone jurisdictional determination (JD) requests to better align with Corps HQ priorities. Stand-alone JDs are those that are not associated with a Department of the Army (DA) permit action and may be necessitated by state and local government requirements for Corps-verified delineations and/or JDs for activities and transactions unrelated to DA permit applications. Please note that Preliminary Jurisdictional Determinations (PJD), Approved JDs (AJD) and Delineation Concurrences are not prerequisites for submitting a DA permit application.

For pending stand-alone JD requests that have already been assigned to a Project Manager, we will finalize those that are currently in coordination with USEPA. For JDs contemplated for future developments, we encourage submission of permit applications/PCNs or no permit required (NPR) requests even if the projects are in the early planning stages. We understand that these requests may be incomplete due to the limited availability of details during a project's early planning stages. Upon receipt of a request, we will work closely with the applicant to outline requirements and next steps, including a pre-application consultation-level discussion and the completion of a JD when necessary.

The Regulatory Branch's fundamental mission is to regulate activities in the nation's waters and wetlands and provide the public with timely service when reviewing DA permit applications for projects that propose impacts to waters of the United States. The growing volume of stand-alone JD requests is delaying the Regulatory Branch's ability to provide efficient reviews of DA permit applications. The Regulatory Branch will issue a public notice in the coming weeks to further detail this shift in workload priorities. **The Regulatory Branch will also continue to work with state and local government entities to further inform them of the unintended consequences of local requirements for Corps JDs that are unrelated to DA permit applications.** We apologize for any inconvenience that this may cause and look forward to working with you during the permitting process. POC's for this effort are Ms. Teralyn Pompeii (Regulatory Branch Chief) and Ms. Kathleen Chernich (Assistance Chief).

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