

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

COMPLETE STATEMENT OF

**LIEUTENANT GENERAL WILLIAM H. “BUTCH” GRAHAM, JR.
CHIEF OF ENGINEERS**

BEFORE

**COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT
AND RELATED AGENCIES**

UNITED STATES SENATE

ON

**REVIEW OF THE FY2026 BUDGET REQUEST FOR THE U.S. ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

JUNE 11, 2025

Chairman Kennedy, Ranking Member Murray, and Members of the Subcommittee:

I am honored to testify before your committee today, along with Mr. D. Lee Forsgren, the Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), in regard to the President's Fiscal Year 2026 (FY 2026) discretionary Budget request (discretionary request) for the Army Civil Works Program.

Through the Civil Works Program, the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) works with other Federal agencies, and with state, Tribal, and local agencies and others, to develop, manage, restore, and protect water resources, primarily through the construction, operation and maintenance, and study of water-related infrastructure projects. The Corps focuses on work that provides high economic, environmental, and public safety returns to the Nation. The Corps also regulates development in waters of the United States and works with other Federal agencies to help communities respond to, and recover from, floods and other natural disasters.

SUMMARY OF FY 2026 DISCRETIONARY REQUEST

The Civil Works Program is performance-based and focuses on high-performing projects and programs within the three main water resources missions of the Corps: commercial navigation, flood and storm damage reduction, and aquatic ecosystem restoration. The Corps uses a targeted approach to invest in water resources, which will benefit the Nation now and in the future.

The discretionary request includes nearly \$6.7 billion for the Civil Works Program.

INVESTIGATIONS PROGRAM

The Investigations program is funded both in the Investigations account and in the Mississippi River and Tributaries account. The Corps uses these funds to evaluate water resources problems and opportunities within the Corps' three main mission areas, design proposed projects, and support related work. The Investigations program includes the Corps planning assistance and technical assistance programs, where the Corps shares its expertise with local communities to help them identify and understand their water resources challenges, and to develop options, with an emphasis on steps that they can take on their own to address these issues. For FY 2026, the Budget includes a total of \$139 million for the Investigations program.

CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

The Construction program is funded through the Construction account, the Mississippi River and Tributaries (MR&T) account, and the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF) account.

The goal of the Construction program is to produce as much value as possible for the Nation from the available funds. The Corps also gives priority to investments, selected on a risk-informed basis, in dam safety assurance, seepage control, and static instability correction work at dams that the Corps owns and operates. The FY 2026 Budget

includes a total of \$1.656 billion for the Construction program to support these high-priority investments.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE (O&M) PROGRAM

The O&M program of the Corps is funded through the O&M account, the MR&T account, and the HMTF account.

Generally, the O&M program supports completed works owned or operated by the Corps, including operation and maintenance of locks and dams along the inland waterways; maintenance dredging of inland and coastal Federal channels; operation and maintenance of multi-purpose dams and reservoirs for flood risk reduction and related purposes such as hydropower; and management of Corps facilities and lands, including serving as a responsible steward of the natural resources on those lands.

The FY 2026 Budget includes a total of \$4.174 billion for the Operation and Maintenance program to support the Corps' efforts to sustain the benefits of its existing infrastructure.

All structures age and can deteriorate over time, causing a potential decline in reliability. The Corps has a large portfolio of water resources projects and is working to sustain the benefits that the key features of its infrastructure provide.

The Corps continues to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its Operation and Maintenance program. The Corps does so by targeting its investments in infrastructure maintenance, repair, and rehabilitation on a risk-informed basis. It invests in the highest priority needs with emphasis on the key features of the infrastructure that the Corps owns and operates, and in work that will reduce long-term O&M costs in real terms.

REGULATORY PROGRAM

Through its Regulatory Program, the Corps protects the Nation's waters including wetlands, and regulates development that could impede navigation, while allowing reasonable development to proceed. The FY 2026 request includes \$221 million to support this important permitting and compliance work.

FORMERLY UTILIZED SITES REMEDIAL ACTION PROGRAM (FUSRAP)

Through FUSRAP, the Corps is involved in the investigation and cleanup of certain low-level radioactive materials and mixed wastes, located mostly at sites contaminated as a result of the Nation's early atomic weapons development program. The FY 2026 Budget includes \$200 million to continue this remediation work.

CONCLUSION

The FY 2026 discretionary Budget request for the Army Civil Works Program represents a continuing, fiscally prudent investment in the Nation's water resources infrastructure. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is committed to a performance-based Civil Works Program, based on innovative, high-return, risk-informed solutions.

Thank you, Chairman Kennedy, Ranking Member Murray, and Members of the Subcommittee. This concludes my statement. I look forward to answering any questions you or other Members of the Subcommittee may have.