BASIC AND OVERALL PROJECT PURPOSE

Fall 2006 Consultant Workshop

US Army Corps of Engineers
BUILDING STRONG®
OBJECTIVES

- Identify and define purpose and need for projects
- Identify the difference between basic and overall purpose
- Avoid purpose that’s too narrow or too broad
- Identify when the Corps should question project need
Purpose and Need Statement

- **Purpose**
  - What are you trying to accomplish
  - Required by 404(b)(1) Guidelines
  - Objective

- **Need**
  - What should be done to address a problem
  - Required by Corps public interest review (33 CFR 320.4)
  - Subjective

Both are required to be addressed by NEPA
Basic Project Purpose

- Fundamental purpose of proposed project
- Determines “Water Dependency”

- Water Dependency – Project/Activity HAS to be located in/on a special aquatic site
Basic Project Purpose

- Example of water dependent projects
  - Docks

- Examples of NON water dependent projects
  - Residential housing developments
  - Commercial developments
  - Roads
  - 99.99999999% of projects
Basic Project Purpose - Examples

- to provide housing
- to provide sufficient water supply
- to increase the capacity of the school system
- to provide/improve transportation efficiency

- The USACE has determined that the basic purpose of the proposed project is to provide a residential development.
Overall Project Purpose

- More specific – defines applicant’s NEED
  - Geographical location
  - Type of project
- Used for evaluating **practicable** alternatives
- Should be concisely stated
- Determined by Corps from applicant’s perspective
- Subject to review/revision during permit process
- Must not be too restrictive or too broad
Intersection of I-95 and I-16

Too Specific!

50-acre site available
Overall Project Purpose - Example

The USACE has determined that the overall project purpose is the construction of a biomass fired power plant to produce 100 MW of electricity, necessary to meet 30-year contracts with four electric cooperatives located in southwest Georgia, southeast Alabama and the panhandle of Florida.
Overall Project Purpose - Example

The USACE has determined that the overall project purpose is to provide a mixed use commercial development to serve the residents in a developing area of Brunswick, Glynn County, Georgia. This overall project purpose serves to limit the geographic area for potential off-site alternatives to a specific area of Glynn County.
CLOSING COMMENTS

- Develop your definition of overall project purpose after considering the type of project and a reasonable geographic area making sure not to define it too narrowly or broadly.

- Get the information you need to conduct a professional evaluation.