

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



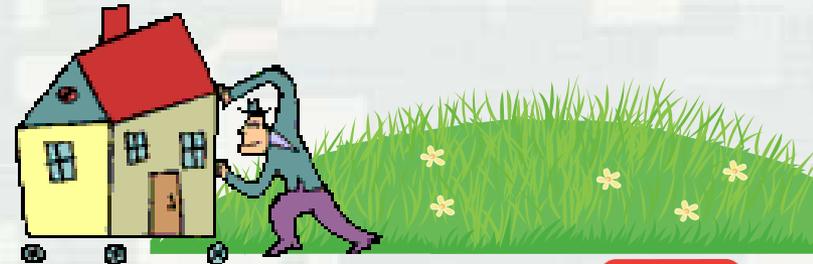
Basic Project Purpose

- 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
 - ▶ 99.9999999% 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

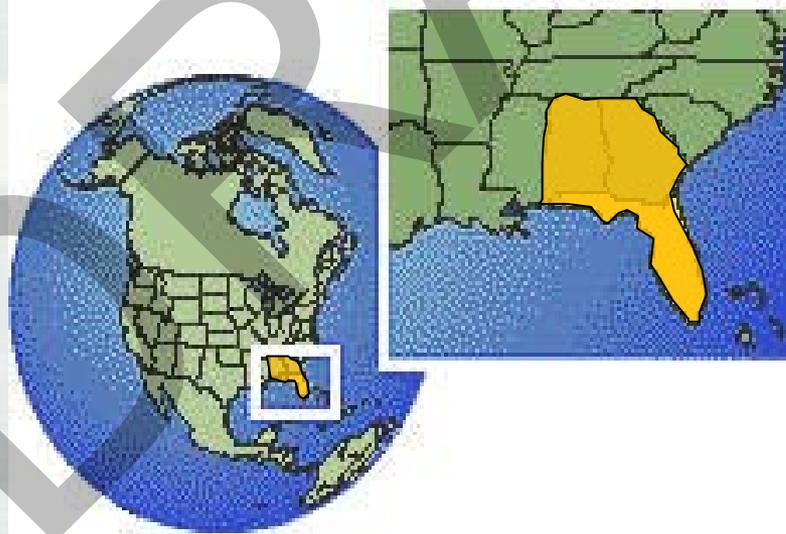


Intersection of I-95 and I-16 Too Specific!



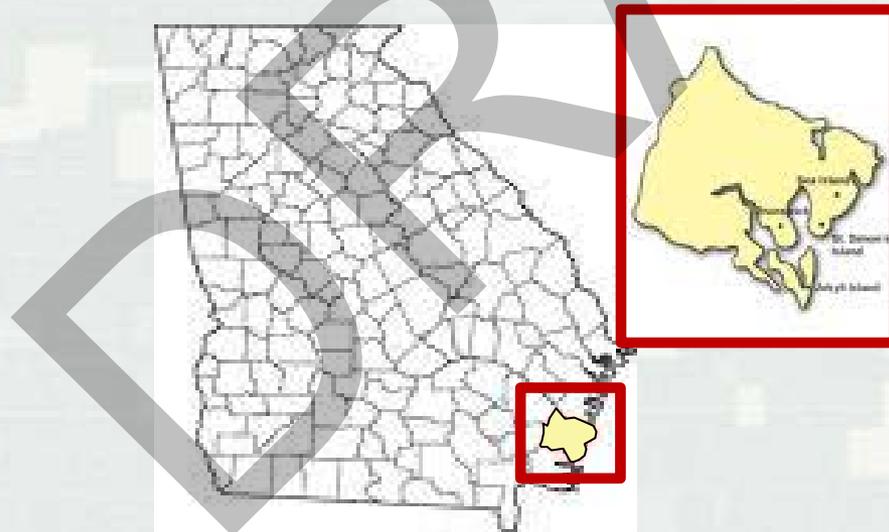
Overall Project Purpose - Example

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

