

SEC. 213. LOWER MISSISSIPPI RIVER COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY.

(a) Comprehensive Study.—

(1) PURPOSE.—The Secretary, in collaboration with the heads of other relevant Federal agencies and pursuant to subsection (d)(1)(A), shall conduct a comprehensive study of the Lower Mississippi River basin, from Cape Girardeau, Missouri, to the Gulf of Mexico, to identify recommendations of actions to be undertaken by the Secretary, under existing authorities or after congressional authorization, for the comprehensive management of the basin for the purposes of—

(A) hurricane and storm damage reduction, flood risk management, structural and nonstructural flood control, and floodplain management strategies;

(B) navigation;

(C) ecosystem and environmental restoration;

(D) water supply;

(E) hydropower production;

(F) recreation; and

(G) other purposes as determined by the Secretary.

(2) DEVELOPMENT.—In conducting the comprehensive study under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall investigate—

(A) the construction of new water resources development projects;

(B) structural and operational modifications to completed water resources development projects within the study area;

(C) projects proposed in the comprehensive coastal protection master plan entitled “Louisiana’s Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast”, prepared by the State of Louisiana and accepted by the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (including any subsequent amendments or revisions), including—

(i) Atchafalaya sediment diversion;

(ii) Union freshwater diversion;

(iii) increase Atchafalaya flow to Terrebonne; and

(iv) Manchac Landbridge diversion;

(D) *natural features and nature-based features, including levee setbacks and instream and floodplain restoration;*

(E) *fish and wildlife habitat resources, including in the Mississippi Sound Estuary, the Lake Pontchartrain Basin, the Breton Sound, the Barataria Basin, the Terrebonne Basin, the Atchafalaya Basin, the Vermilion–Teche Basin, and other outlets of the Mississippi River and Tributaries project;*

(F) *mitigation of adverse impacts from operations of flood control structures to the Mississippi Sound Estuary, the Lake Pontchartrain Basin, the Breton Sound, the Barataria Basin, the Atchafalaya Basin, and other outlets of the Mississippi River and Tributaries project;*

(G) *the effects of dredging and river-bottom elevation changes on drainage efficiency;*

(H) *the economic impacts of existing practices, including such impacts on coastal resources;*

(I) *monitoring requirements, including as near-real time monitoring as practicable, and adaptive management measures to respond to changing conditions over time;*

(J) *the division of responsibilities among the Federal Government and non-Federal interests with respect to the purposes described in paragraph (1); and*

(K) *other matters, as determined by the Secretary.*

(b) *Consultation And Use Of Existing Data.*—In conducting the comprehensive study under subsection (a), *the Secretary shall consult with* applicable Federal, State, and *local agencies*, Indian Tribes, non-Federal interests, *and other stakeholders*, and, to the maximum extent practicable and where appropriate, make use of existing data provided to the Secretary by such entities or from any relevant multistate monitoring programs.

(c) *Recommendations.*—In conducting the comprehensive study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall develop actionable recommendations to Congress, including for—

(1) *the construction of new water resources development projects to improve the maximum effective river resource use and control;*

(2) *the structural or operational modification of completed water resources development projects;*

(3) *such additional monitoring of, or adaptive management measures to carry out with respect to, completed water resources development projects, to respond to changing conditions;*

(4) *improving the efficiency of operational and maintenance dredging within the study area;*

(5) *whether changes are necessary to the Mississippi River and Tributaries project within the study area;*

(6) *other Federal and non-Federal action, where appropriate; and*

(7) *follow-up studies and data collection and monitoring to be carried out by the relevant Federal or State agency.*

(d) *Completion Of Study; Report To Congress.—*

(1) ANNUAL REPORTS.—*Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter until the final report under paragraph (2) is submitted, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a report detailing—*

(A) *any interim actions relating to water resources development projects within the study area undertaken by the Secretary under existing authority; and*

(B) *any recommendations developed under subsection (c).*

(2) FINAL REPORT.—*Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a final report detailing the results of the comprehensive study required by this section, including the recommendations developed under subsection (c).*

(3) APPLICATION OF CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS.—*Section 1001(a) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 ([33 U.S.C. 2282c\(a\)](#)) shall not apply to the study carried out by the Secretary under this section.*

(e) *Further Analysis.—*

(1) IN GENERAL.—*In conducting the comprehensive study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall carry out activities in geographic areas that warrant additional analysis by the Corps of Engineers, including feasibility studies.*

(2) TREATMENT.—*A feasibility study carried out under paragraph (1) shall be considered to be a continuation of the comprehensive study conducted under subsection (a).*

(f) *Requirements.—The comprehensive study conducted under subsection (a) shall be carried out in accordance with the authorities for the Mississippi River and Tributaries project.*

(g) *Definitions.—In this section:*

(1) MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES PROJECT.—*The term “Mississippi River and Tributaries project” means the Mississippi River and Tributaries project authorized by the first section of the Act of May 15, 1928 ([33 U.S.C. 702a](#)).*

(2) NATURAL FEATURE; NATURE-BASED FEATURE.—*The terms “natural feature” and “nature-based feature” have the meanings given those terms in section 1184 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 ([33 U.S.C. 2289a](#)).*

(h) *Authorization Of Appropriations.*—*There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$25,000,000, to remain available until expended.*

(i) *Savings Provision.*—*Nothing in this section shall delay or interfere with, or be construed as grounds for enjoining construction of, authorized projects within the study area.*