



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Fort Worth District

Joint Public Notice

Number: CESWF-11-TXRAM

Activity: Texas Rapid Assessment Method Version 2.0

Date: October 13, 2015

Purpose

The purpose of this public notice is to inform you of Regulatory Program information in which you might be interested. The notice includes the release of new impact and mitigation assessment tools designed to enable us to make predictable, reasonable, and increasingly transparent decisions on factors affecting the public interest. We hope you will participate in this process.

Regulatory Program

Since its early history, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has played an important role in the development of the nation's water resources. Originally, this involved construction of harbor fortifications and coastal defenses. Later duties included the improvement of waterways to provide avenues of commerce. An important part of our mission today is the protection of the nation's waterways through the administration of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Program.

Section 10

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is directed by Congress under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors of 1899 (33 USC 403) to regulate *all work or structures in or affecting the course, condition or capacity of navigable waters of the United States*. The intent of this law is to protect the navigable capacity of waters important to interstate commerce.

Section 404

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is directed by Congress under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344) to regulate the *discharge of dredged and fill material into all waters of the United States, including wetlands*. The intent of the law is to protect the nation's waters from the indiscriminate discharge of material capable of causing pollution and to restore and maintain their chemical, physical and biological integrity.

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JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, FORT WORTH DISTRICT

SUBJECT: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District (USACE) has revised the Texas Rapid Assessment Method (TXRAM). The original version of TXRAM, referred to as Version 1.0, was published in March 2011, and has been used as the primary assessment method used for calculating impacts and mitigation associated with Regulatory permit actions in the Fort Worth District. TXRAM Version 2.0 can be downloaded at:

<http://www.swf.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Permitting/ApplicationSubmittalForms.aspx>

[X](#)

DATE ISSUED: October 13, 2015

LOCATION: The use of TXRAM Version 2.0 is applicable to all projects, including mitigation sites and proposed mitigation banks, located within the geographic regulatory boundaries of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District in the state of Texas (refer to Figure 1).

SUMMARY: The Texas Rapid Assessment Method, (TXRAM) Version 1.0 was originally developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, Regulatory Division (USACE), and was published in 2011. The USACE's team included Regulatory staff from the Fort Worth and Tulsa Districts, a contractor consisting of personnel from three private consulting firms, in addition to field review and input from cooperating state and federal agency staff. The methodology was developed in approximately one year. The objective of the effort was to develop a tool for evaluating stream and wetland conditions that was rapid and repeatable in order to help ensure consistent evaluation of Regulatory actions. TXRAM was also designed as a tool for applicants to employ during the screening of various project alternatives based on aquatic resource quality and for use in predicting ecological lift associated with mitigation projects, including mitigation banks.

In March 2011, the USACE issued a Public Notice announcing the availability of the Final Draft of TXRAM Version 1.0 for use in evaluating waters of the U.S. throughout the Fort Worth District and the Texas portion of Tulsa District. The Districts encouraged practitioners to utilize the model and to provide written comments which were accepted for a period of one year. Approximately 131 unique comments were received. While Version 1.0 achieved its objectives, additional use and comments highlighted areas where the method could be improved. Consequently, in 2014, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District (USACE) initiated the finalization of TXRAM with the goal of revising the method to appropriately address identified concerns. This effort has led to the development of TXRAM Version 2.0. The use of TXRAM is not mandatory, but is highly recommended, as its use over the past four years has served to increase the efficiency, consistency, and quality of impact assessment and mitigation calculation. The use of TXRAM 2.0 will be sufficient in most regulatory situations.

However, since TXRAM 2.0 is not an intensive quantitative functional assessment, on a project-specific basis, the USACE may request additional assessments or evaluations. For example, projects such as large impoundments, or reservoirs that could result in substantial alteration of downstream hydrology or projects with substantial impacts to perennial pools or perennial stream, would require additional analyses with greater sensitivity in order to quantify predicted impacts.

SUMMARY: This Public Notice is being distributed to all known interested persons in order to disseminate this information.

DISTRICT ENGINEER
FORT WORTH DISTRICT
CORPS OF ENGINEERS