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Army Corps to Solicit Public Comment on P3 Pilot Program for Water Projects.

The Army Corps of Engineers will hold a “listening session” on Aug. 27 to solicit ideas and recommendations from the public on ways it can implement a new pilot authority to establish public-private partnerships for building water infrastructure.

The session is one of four the Corps will hold in August and September to gather public comment on implementing various provisions in the recently enacted Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA). The legislation requires the Corps to develop a P3 pilot program allowing non-federal partners to carry out water resource development projects, including coastal harbor improvement, channel improvement, inland navigation, flood damage reduction, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and hurricane and storm damage reduction. Up to 15 projects are authorized under the program.

The Aug. 27 session will focus on alternative financing through contributions from nonfederal interests and innovative financing for water utility improvements. The other three sessions will cover the following topics:

The Aug. 13 session will focus on deauthorizations, backlog prevention and project development and delivery

On Sept. 10, the Corps will discuss safety issues on the nation’s levees and dams and other regulatory issues.

The final listening session on Sept. 24 will cover non-federal implementation, water supply and reservoir issues and navigation issues on the national waterways.

The listening sessions will take place via [webinar](#), allowing participants to join by telephone or Internet, according to the Federal Register announcement. The Corps will also gather written comments from the public throughout the comment period.

WRRDA authorized an estimated \$5.4 billion for Corps projects between 2015 and 2019 and will cover construction and maintenance of locks, dams, levees, navigation channels, harbors and environmental restoration projects.

July 30, 2014