

Federal Update

Survey of News from USACE, BOEM, and DHS

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Building Infrastructure, Not Paperwork

- On Feb. 23, ASA(CW) Adam Telle announced the Building Infrastructure Not Paperwork (BINP) plan.
- BINP consists of 27 initiatives grouped in five categories:
 - Maximizing the Ability to Deliver National Infrastructure
 - Cutting Red Tape
 - Focus on Efficiency
 - Transparency & Accountability
 - Prioritization
- 12 BINP implementation memos have been released thus far.



Building Infrastructure, Not Paperwork

➤ Maximizing the Ability to Deliver National Infrastructure

- Maximizing Project Labor Agreements
- Improve Design Maturity
- Non-Federal Interest Studies & Project Delivery
- Contracting Out New Feasibility Studies
- Increasing Dredging Capacity:
 - Smarter Contracting

➤ Cutting Red Tape

- Leveraging Technology in Permitting
- Expanding General Permits
- Increasing Dredging Capacity:
 - Better Mitigation Banking for Navigation Projects
 - Expanding Environmental Windows
- Increasing Hydroelectric Output

Building Infrastructure, Not Paperwork

➤ Focus on Efficiency

- Consistency in Communication of President's Budget
- Harmonize Enterprise/Refocus Districts on Core Functions
- Optimizing Our Footprint: Aligning Civil Works Mission Critical Locations
- Smarter Real Estate Acquisition
- Modernizing Business Practices
- Delegate Recreation Resources
- Increasing Dredging Capacity:
 - Better Use of Simulation When Designing Navigation Projects
- Harbor Seal of Preparedness
- Optimizing Vehicle Fleet

Building Infrastructure, Not Paperwork

➤ Transparency & Accountability

- District Salary Transparency
- Consequences for Project Cost Overruns
- Deauthorization of Inactive Projects
- Cancel Contracts Not in the Interest of the American Taxpayer
- Consolidating USACE Websites

➤ Prioritization

- Prioritization of Effort
- Prioritization Within Projects (RAPID)
 - Risk Informed
 - Aligned
 - Proportional
 - Iterative
 - Decisive
- Early Federal Interest Determination

USACE Pauses Nonstructural Feasibility Studies

- To USACE, ‘nonstructural’ solutions in flood risk management projects include home elevations, floodproofing, and voluntary buyouts.
- USACE has decided to issue a strategic pause on feasibility studies that primarily featured nonstructural solutions, in order to incorporate lessons learned from pilot programs.
- Louisiana studies in this strategic pause include Tangipahoa, Amite River & Tributaries, and Lafitte. The state wants to get these to a Tentatively Selected Plan, in order for these to be ready for a Chief’s Report when the pilots can better inform authorization.

ASA(CW) Telle Congressional Testimony – September 2025

- Telle testified that generally, nonstructural is not “in keeping with the Corps’ long tradition of building infrastructure that protects entire communities.” He suggested that USACE may not be the proper entity for these initiatives at scale.
- However, Telle did indicate that the Corps was still pursuing structural flood reduction projects with nonstructural features incorporated.
- Telle testified that Southwest Coastal has not been slowed down as it is one the four USACE nonstructural pilot projects.

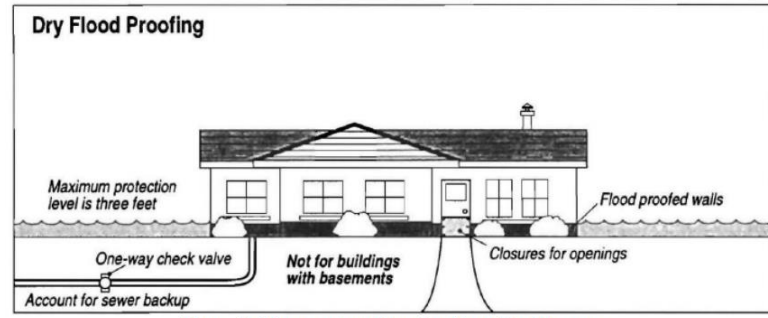


Figure 1. Nonstructural Dry Floodproofing Diagram

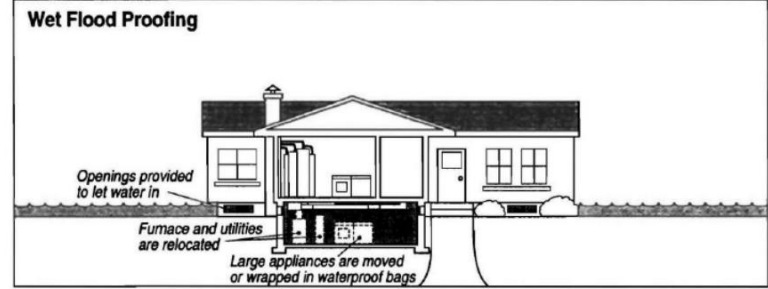


Figure 2. Nonstructural Wet Floodproofing Diagram

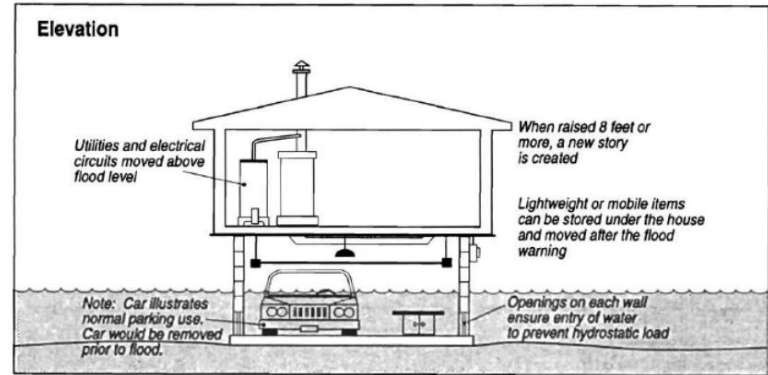
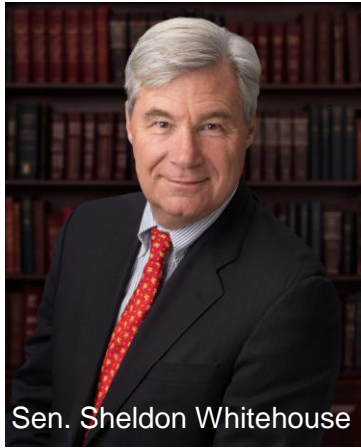


Figure 3. Nonstructural Elevation Diagram

Draft Legislation – ELEVATE Act



- Senator Whitehouse (D-RI), the Ranking Member of Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, is prioritizing nonstructural flood risk management policy reform in this year's Water Resources Development Act (WRDA).
- His staff is circulating the **Enhancing Long-Term, Efficient, and Viable Alternatives to Empower Flood-Prone Communities (ELEVATE) Act**
- This legislative effort responds to ASA(CW) Telle's pause on finalizing feasibility studies for large-scale nonstructural projects.

Among other aspects, the legislation would:

- Prohibit pause/termination of nonstructural studies & projects funded by Congress
- Increase federal cost share to 75% for all nonstructural, 90% for economically disadvantaged and repetitive loss structures, and 100% for severe repetitive loss structures.
- Establishes that buyouts for nonstructural are on a voluntary basis.
- Makes relocation and temporary housing part of project costs.
- Expand eligible project costs (utility repairs, asbestos and lead-based paint abatement, elevating decks/porches/stairs, housing costs of displacement, etc.).
- Changes would apply to previously authorized projects without needing a general re-evaluation report.

Coastal Trust Fund Act, H.R. 7459



Rep. Jeff Van Drew



Rep. Laura Gillen

- Would dedicate \$1 billion a year from federal offshore energy receipts to the “Coastal Storm Risk Management Trust Fund.”
- Funds would be available for the federal share of USACE Coastal Storm Risk Management Projects.
- Introduced by Reps. Van Drew (R-NJ), Gillen (D-NY), Smith (R-NJ), and Kelly (R-PA).
- Eligible* CPRA Projects Include:
 - Grand Isle
 - Lafitte
 - Lake Pontchartrain & Vicinity
 - LaRose to Golden Meadow
 - Lower MS Comp. Mgmt. Study
 - Morganza to the Gulf
 - NOV
 - South Central
 - SELA
 - Southwest Coastal
 - St. Tammany
 - Upper Barataria Basin
 - West Bank & Vicinity
 - West Shore Lake Pontchartrain

BOEM's Recent Gulf of America Lease Sales

- On December 10, 2025, BOEM held the first lease sale in the Gulf of America since 2023.
- The sale generated \$300,425,222 in high bids.
- 30 companies submitted 219 bids across the 181 blocks.
- This was the 1st lease sale required in the Gulf of America by the One Big Beautiful bill.



Above: DOI Deputy Secretary Kate McGregor during the Big Beautiful Gulf 2 Lease Sale in New Orleans. Below: BOEM Director Matt Giacona.



- On March 11, BOEM held the Big Beautiful Gulf 2 sale, generating \$46,976,423 in high bids.
- 13 companies submitted 38 bids across the 25 blocks.
- BOEM applied a 12.5% royalty rate, the lowest since the Bush Administration, to encourage industry interest.
- This was the 2nd of 30 Gulf lease sales required by the One Big Beautiful Bill.

Change at Dept. of Homeland Security (DHS)

- Secretary Noem reassigned as Special Envoy for the Shield of the Americas.
- To cut spending, Noem had a policy of personally reviewing any FEMA expenditure over \$100,000, which led to delays.
 - For example, CPRA's \$76.3 million reimbursement for West Belle Headland took 6+ months longer than anticipated.
- Sen. Markwayne Mullin (R-OK) nominated for Secretary of DHS.
- Mullin will appear before Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee today. He will reportedly face questions about resolving delays on FEMA disaster funds.
- His confirmation path appears smooth.

