

From: WEG Newsflash [adiggs@wegnet.com]

Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2005 11:45 AM

To: WEG Newsflash

Subject: WEG Newsflash: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Stream Attribute Assessment Methodology
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has implemented the Stream Attribute Assessment Methodology (SAAM), effective November 15, 2005. Significant considerations include:

1. The SAAM is only applicable within the Piedmont Physiographic Province, which is generally located west of I-95 and east of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Use outside of the Piedmont Province may be warranted by the individual Corps Project Manager.
2. All federal permit applications within the Piedmont Province, submitted after November 15th, will be required to use the SAAM to determine stream compensation.
3. Permit modifications will not be subject to the SAAM, unless the modification requires a significant amount of additional stream impact.
4. Bank Sponsors that have not submitted a draft Mitigation Banking Instrument by November 15, 2005 are required to use the SAAM.
4. The SAAM will not affect previously issued Corps permits and approved mitigation banks.
5. The SAAM is applied to potential stream impact and compensation sites. The methodology includes six (6) metrics (channel incision, riparian buffer, bank erosion, stream habitat, sediment deposition, and channel alteration) to determine the total Reach Condition Index (RCI) or relative value of the stream.
6. Stream compensation is based on the RCI, not straight linear footage of the existing resource.
7. Impacts to higher quality streams will generally require much more mitigation than impacts to more degraded systems.
8. Stream mitigation costs are anticipated to increase significantly based on past costs and mitigation requirements.

Please note that the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is developing a separate stream assessment and compensation method. The DEQ is expecting to publish guidance late 2005/early 2006. Additional details of the DEQ's methodology are to follow soon.

For more information, please contact your WEG Project Manager or any one of our offices: Williamsburg (757) 220-6869, Richmond (804) 267-3474, Herndon (703) 437-3096, or Fredericksburg (540) 785-5544.