



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers ®
Charleston District

General Investigations

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What is it?

General Investigations is the program that manages the larger projects of the US Army Corps of Engineers. All studies and projects under the GI Program are specifically authorized and funded by Congress. The GI Program covers the Corps' missions of Navigation, Flood Damage Reduction, Recreation, and Ecosystem Restoration.

What is the process and how long does it take?

The GI Program has five phases. The first phase is the Reconnaissance Phase. Once authorized and funded by Congress, the Corps initiates a 9 - 12 month study to determine what the problems and opportunities are regarding a specific area and if there is a Federal interest in participating with a Sponsor in a feasibility study.

The Feasibility Phase is a more in-depth analysis of alternatives and is focused on determining the best solution to the water resource problems. This phase can take one to three years, depending on the complexity of the problems and solutions.

Once a project has been selected and approved, the third phase of the process is Pre-Construction, Engineering and Design (PED). This is the phase where plans and specifications are developed and typically takes one to two years. At the end of this phase, all project information is sent forward for approval by Congress

Once Congress authorized and funds a specific project, construction begins. The amount of time for construction varies depending on the size and scope of the project.

The final phase is Operation and Maintenance. Operation and maintenance of projects is the responsibility of the Sponsor. Appropriate information will be provided to the Sponsor at the end of construction.

What does it cost?

- The Reconnaissance Phase of \$100,000 is paid 100% by the Federal Government.
- All Feasibility expenditures are cost shared at a rate of 50% Federal, 50% Sponsor. The Sponsor may contribute all of their cost share as in-kind services.
- PED costs are cost shared 75% Federal, 25% Sponsor.
- Construction costs are cost shared at varying rates, depending on the mission area.