



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION BULLETIN

No. 2025-9

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SUBJECT: Oversight and Execution of Geophysical Investigations.

CATEGORY: Directive and Policy.

1. References:

- a. Engineer Manual 1110-1-1802, Geophysical Explorations for Engineering and Environmental Investigations, 31 August 1995.
- b. Engineer Manual 200-1-15, Environmental Quality Technical Guidance for Military Munitions Response Actions, 30 October 2018.
- c. Engineer Regulation 1110-1-8153, Military Munitions Support Services Roles and Responsibilities, 3 April 2025.
- d. Engineer Regulation 200-3-1, Environmental Quality - Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) Program Policy, 14 December 2022.

2. Purpose. This Engineering and Construction Bulletin (ECB) establishes policy and mandatory requirements for oversight of geophysical investigations conducted in support of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) projects.

3. Applicability.

a. This ECB applies to all USACE Commands engaged in planning, executing, or reviewing geophysical investigations supporting civil works, environmental restoration, military programs, and other engineering efforts where geophysics is utilized. This requirement applies to all project phases where geophysical methods are utilized including but not limited to:

- Subsurface characterization for civil infrastructure,
- Environmental investigations,
- Military construction support,
- Subsurface Utility Engineering (SUE) Quality Level B, and
- Any other purpose for geophysics as defined in Engineer Manual (EM) 1110-1-1802.

b. This ECB does not apply to research activities unless USACE laboratories are supporting district work nor to the Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP) which is regulated by Engineer Regulation (ER) 1110-1-8153, ER 200-3-1, and EM 200-1-15. SUE only requires geophysical oversight in support of Quality Level B investigations.

4. Background. Geophysical site investigations can be a valuable tool for supporting Civil Works and Environmental missions—particularly in early site characterization, risk reduction, design optimization, and emergency site response. However, several USACE projects have encountered significant issues with geophysics, including poor data quality and flawed interpretations, resulting in project delays and wasted effort and resources. To avoid costly mistakes and ensure geophysics contributes effectively to project success, qualified oversight is critical for all geophysical activities—whether contracted or performed internally.

5. Guidance.

a. All USACE District offices may use USACE resources to perform geophysical investigations, processing and interpretation of geophysical data, and analytical services in support of project investigation, design, construction, operation of civil works, military, and support-for-others programs. For geophysics project work performed in-house, a Corps of Engineers Reviewer Certification and Access Program (CERCAP) Level I or II certified staff member with the appropriate expertise in the methods being performed must lead the planning, field work, post processing, and interpretation of that work.

b. For project work performed by Architect-Engineer firms, all geophysical investigations must be overseen by CERCAP-certified personnel, Level I or II depending on the complexity of the project, with expertise in the specific methodology of geophysics that is being performed. This individual shall provide subject-matter oversight, peer consultation, and technical review of geophysical scopes, methodologies, data processing, data interpretation, data deliverables and derivative products, and final reports.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

a. Districts are responsible for ensuring that project delivery teams contain personnel with appropriate qualifications for all geophysical efforts.

b. MSCs and other Review Management Organizations are responsible for ensuring compliance with this policy through their Quality Assurance review function and for ensuring that Level I CERCAP applicants meet the qualifications and have the expertise to perform the required reviews for more routine geophysics projects.

c. Headquarters-Engineering and Construction (HQ E&C) is responsible for developing policy and guidance for geophysical investigations. Additionally, HQ E&C is responsible for ensuring that Level II CERCAP applicants meet the qualifications and have the expertise to perform the required reviews for highly complex geophysics projects.

7. Funding. All funding to support the execution level geophysics efforts described in this ECB shall come from the associated project requiring the geophysical work to be performed.

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8. Update. The requirements included in this ECB will be included in a forthcoming update to EM 1110-1-1802.

9. Points of Contact. HQUSACE points of contact for this ECB are Dr. Georgette Hlepas, CEEC, (773) 592-4033 or April Fontaine, CEEC, (916) 201-2606.

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THOMAS P. SMITH, P.E.
Director of Engineering and Construction
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers