*Additional Funding.-*The fiscal year 2014 budget request does not reflect the extent of need for project studies funding. The Corps has numerous continuing studies that will be suspended or slowed unnecessarily under the limits of the budget request. These studies could lead to projects with significant economic benefits, particularly by increasing national competitiveness through marine transportation improvements and by avoiding damages caused by flooding and coastal storms. The agreement includes additional funds for work that either was not included in the administration's request or was inadequately budgeted. The direction that follows shall be the only direction used for additional funding provided in this account.

A study shall be eligible for this funding if: (I) it has received funding, other than through a reprogramming, in at least one of the previous three fiscal years; (2) it was previously funded and could reach a significant milestone or produce significant outputs in fiscal year 2014; or (3) it is selected as one of the new starts allowed in accordance with this Act and the additional direction provided below. None of these funds may be used for any item where funding was specifically denied. None of these funds may be used to alter any existing cost-share requirements. While this additional funding is shown in the feasibility column, the Corps should use these funds in recon, feasibility, and PED, as applicable. Funding associated with each category may be allocated to any eligible study within that category; funding associated with each subcategory may be allocated only to eligible studies within that subcategory. The list of subcategories is not meant to be exhaustive.

The Corps is directed to develop a rating system or systems for use in evaluating studies for allocation of the additional funding provided in this account. These evaluation systems may be, but are not required to be, individualized for each category or subcategory. Each study eligible for funding shall be evaluated under the applicable ratings system. A study may not be excluded from evaluation for being "inconsistent with administration policy." The Corps retains complete control over the methodology of these ratings systems, but shall consider giving priority to completing or accelerating ongoing studies or to initiating new studies which will enhance the nation's economic development, job growth, and international competitiveness; are for projects located in areas that have suffered recent natural disasters; or are for projects to address legal requirements. The executive branch retains complete discretion over project specific allocation decisions within the additional funds provided. Not later than 45 days after enactment of this Act, the Corps shall provide to the Committees on

Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a work plan including the following information: (1) a detailed description of the ratings system(s) developed and used to evaluate studies, including the weighting given to each factor or criterion if multiple factors or criteria are used; (2) delineation of how these funds are to be allocated; (3) a summary of the work to be accomplished with each allocation, including phase of work; and ( 4) a list of all studies that were considered eligible for funding but did not receive funding, including an explanation of whether each study could have used funds in fiscal year 2014, whether the study was rated as highly or more highly than other studies that did receive funding, and the specific reasons each study was considered as being less competitive for an allocation of funds. For any study excluded from funding for being "inconsistent with administration policy," the work plan shall include a detailed explanation of why each such study is inconsistent with administration policy. No funds shall be obligated for any study under this program that has not been justified in such a work plan.

*New Starts.-*The agreement includes up to nine new study starts to be balanced across the three main mission areas of the Corps (navigation, flood and storm damage reduction, and environmental restoration). Each new start shall be funded from the appropriate additional funding line item. Consideration of the nine shall not be limited to only those proposed in the administration's budget request. In addition to the priority factors used to allocate all additional funding provided, the Corps should give careful consideration to the out-year budget impacts of the studies chosen as new starts, as well as whether there appears to be an identifiable local sponsor that will be ready and able to provide the necessary cost shares in a timely manner for the feasibility and preconstruction engineering and design phases of the study phase. Any follow-on feasibility studies should be conducted utilizing the Corps' 3 X 3 X 3 approach, as appropriate, and completed as expeditiously as possible.

As all of these studies are to be chosen by the Corps, it should be understood that all are considered of equal importance. The expectation is that future budget submissions will include funding appropriate to meet the goals of the 3 X 3 X 3 approach for the feasibility study, as well as seamlessly fund the reconnaissance, feasibility, and preconstruction engineering and design phases. The Corps may not change or substitute the new study starts selected once the work plan has been provided to the Committees.

*Water Resources Priority Study.-No* funds shall be used for this new activity or the proposed new National Flood Risk Assessment Study.