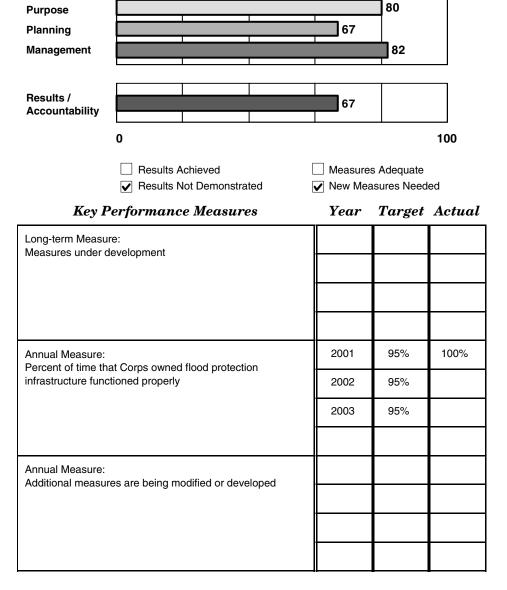
Program: Flood Damage Reduction

Agency: Army Corps of Engineers

Bureau: Civil Works



Rating: Results Not Demonstrated

Program Type: Capital Assets

Program Summary:

The Corps Flood Damage Reduction Program is designed to reduce flood damage through structural projects (building levees and modifying channels) and non-structural projects, such as buying and removing buildings from flood plains and through technical assistance to states. Today, most projects are constructed by the Corps are owned and operated by local communities. The Corps maintains large federally owned projects that were built many years ago on major rivers.

The assessment shows the following:

- 1. The program's long-term goal is to reduce flood damages, but there is no overall flood reduction target. Also, the Corps is completing projects that reduce potential damages to specific areas, but annual flood damages to the nation are increasing.
- 2. There are annual measures and targets relating to project operations and construction. The Corps attempts to measure outcomes (e.g., percent of the time that Corps's owned levees carry out their designed purpose), but needs refine this measure to better reflect the occurrence and extent of flooding in particular locations each year. Other measures need improvement. An example of such a measure is the percent of time project construction costs are controlled sufficiently to maintain a projected benefit-cost ratio. This measure allows cost to rise as long as benefits are sufficient to cover the increment. Cost issues are addressed only when they exceed a fairly liberal authorization ceiling.
- 3. Although the program is generally well managed, it does not demonstrate results due to the lack of long-term outcome measures.

As a result of these findings, the Administration will:

- 1. Broaden the Corps approach flood damage reduction by more closely coordinating this program with the other Federal programs (e.g., Federal Emergency Management Agency Flood Mitigation program) and considering ways for the Corps to be more pro-active in preventing flood risks rather than reacting to them.
- 2. Develop additional outcome oriented performance measures.

(For more information on this program, please see the Corps of Engineers chapter in the Budget volume.)

Program Funding Level (in millions of dollars)

2002 Actual	2003 Estimate	2004 Estimate
1,398	1,099	1,116