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DOGE CREATING MORE QUESTIONS THAN ANSWERS

Layoffs and firings at various federal agencies started this month and are continuing as we write. The impact on those workers is obviously significant. What's unclear is what impact they are currently having on the work of the affected agencies. Hundreds of FEMA employees and contractors were fired over the President's holiday weekend while the agency is dealing with dozens of emergencies from hurricanes, fires, and floods. As yet, the impact on disaster recovery and victims is unknown.

Similarly, the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) entered NOAA headquarters early this month inciting reports of anticipated cuts that have yet to materialize. Also, hundreds of probationary employees at EPA have been fired and more firings of these workers who have been employed less than a year are now expected at the Defense Department. Nevertheless, a federal judge declined to issue a temporary restraining order on these actions until it can be shown that damages have occurred. If our readers are aware of any actual impacts in government services, please send us reports to howard@waterlog.net. All information will be treated with strict confidence. Or... see below.

POST ANONYMOUSLY ON THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS SUBREDDIT

While digging for information on DOGE's potential reductions in force for DOD employees, we stumbled upon a Corps of Engineers subreddit where users were sharing their experiences as Corps employees. There are 3,200 following the page.

Visit the page here: <https://www.reddit.com/r/USACE/>

APPROPRIATIONS NEGOTIATIONS HIT A WALL

While you can hear elsewhere that Congress is debating a budget reconciliation measure, that activity has no impact on the as yet unpassed FY25 appropriations bills. As we near the halfway point of the fiscal year, congressional negotiators have hit a wall because Democrats are unwilling to negotiate with President Trump and Elon Musk executing massive firings and layoffs at federal agencies. The deadline for a government shutdown is March 14th. With the highly partisan current climate, the chances for an agreement are getting slim. We'll hopefully know more for next month's *WaterLog*, but the growing alternative is the current temporary funding measure for government agencies being extended through September 30th. That at the very least stifles new initiatives for all agencies and eliminates all congressionally-directed funding (earmarks) that are part of the current FY25 appropriations bills.

FY26 APPROPRIATIONS

Even given the lack of progress on current year appropriations (see above), the House Appropriations Committee chair, Rep. Tom Cole, says his subcommittees will start work on FY26 appropriations by the end of April. Some members of Congress are reaching out to constituents this week asking local governments and nonprofits for earmark requests with deadlines as soon as mid-March.

Coastal Legislation

See an updated list of coastal legislation in the 119th Congress [here](#).

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