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Subject: Coordinating Utilities Planning, Design, Construction and Warranty Activities for Military Construction Projects

Applicability: Information

1. This Engineering and Construction Bulletin is issued at the request of HQ Installation Management Command (IMCOM).
2. This is a reminder of the importance of effective planning, design, construction and warranty activities for military construction work involving supporting utilities systems. Effective coordination must include the garrison Director of Public Works (DPW), local Utilities Privatization (UP) contractors (if applicable), Energy Savings Performance Contract (ESPC) contractors or Utility Energy Service Contract (UESC) contractors, and the local Utility companies that provide utilities commodities.
3. Changes over the past decades have transformed the utilities landscape on many military installations. There are now a variety of private and public entities owning and supplying utilities and utilities infrastructure to military-owned facilities. This makes it more complex and more important to coordinate effectively the addition or modification of utilities infrastructure and utilities services on military installations.
4. Ineffective coordination can result in delay and claims by installation utility contractors. In one instance, our construction contractor replaced infrastructure owned by an installation UP contractor without its knowledge or approval. Fortunately, this was a very small investment and was resolved locally.
5. To avoid conflicts, claims, and delays, USACE PDTs must effectively coordinate all planned utility connections, extensions, expansions, modifications, and operations for all utilities services throughout the project delivery process. It is critical that these requirements are anticipated and effectively articulated in solicitation documents prior to contract formation. This is especially critical when multiple prime contractors will be working simultaneously on an installation.
6. Requirements for utility outages must be anticipated and effectively articulated and coordinated in contract documents. An example would be a tie-in of a new distribution line (water, gas, or electric). If service for a main feeder is shut-off to allow the connection, this could impact another contractor's infrastructure. In fact, the cut-off valve may be the other contractor's infrastructure and shut-off could involve possible property damage issues in addition to life, safety, and health issues.

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7. Utilities connections for many military construction projects will remain a complex, critical issue that must be addressed effectively by the entire delivery team over the entire planning, design, and construction phases.

8. Point of contact for this issue is Mr. Jim Lovo, CECW-CE-D, 202-761-0995 or Mr. Paul Parsonneault, CECW-CE, 202-761-7423.

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