

## **R.I.P. — WRDA 2004**

**11/22/04**

In spite of round-the-clock negotiations over the past week, Congress failed to pass the Water Resources Development Act of 2004 (WRDA).

WRDA supporters were hopeful that the bill would be attached to the omnibus appropriations bill that was approved over the weekend.

However, the Senate and House needed to resolve several key policy differences in order to move WRDA forward. Negotiators were faced with a very short time period to produce a compromise that would be acceptable to both chambers.

On Friday evening, Congressional offices received notice that WRDA would not be finished in time to be included in the omnibus bill.

While specific details have not been released, early reports indicate that disagreements about project streamlining may have been one of the reasons why negotiations stalled.

The last WRDA bill was passed in 2000. The House passed its version of WRDA last year (HR 2557). The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee approved its version of WRDA in June (S 2773). The full Senate did not consider the bill.

It is expected that Congress will try to advance a new WRDA bill next year.

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