
Working Capital Fund Overview

The USGS Working Capital Fund (WCF) was established to allow for the efficient financial management of the components listed below. The WCF was made available for expenses necessary for furnishing materials, supplies, equipment, work, and services in support of USGS programs, and as authorized by law, to agencies of the Federal Government and others. The WCF consists of both investment components and fee-for-service components, as follows:

Mainframe Computer Investment C This component is used for the acquisition, augmentation, and replacement of the USGS mainframe computer, related peripheral equipment (data storage devices, printers, processors, etc.), software, and necessary environmental and facilities replacement and renovation.

Telecommunications Investment C This component is used for telecommunication hardware, software, facilities, and services. Examples include replacement or expansion of automatic exchange systems and computerized network equipment such as switches, routers, and monitoring systems.

Equipment Investment C This component is used for the acquisition, replacement, and augmentation of equipment for USGS programs. Equipment may include, but is not limited to, hydrologic, geologic, cartographic instruments, laboratory equipment, and computer hardware and software.

Facilities Investment C This component supports facility and space management investment expenses for USGS real property, including owned and leased space. Authorized investment expenses include nonrecurring and emergency repair, relocating of a facility, and facility modernization. The component does not include annual expenses such as rent, day-to-day operating expenses, recurring maintenance, or utilities. The investment component is not used to fund construction of buildings.

National Water Quality Laboratory (NWQL) C The NWQL is a fee-for-services component conducting chemical analysis of water, sediments, and aquatic tissue for all USGS water district offices and other customers including other USGS divisions, other DOI bureaus, and other government agencies. The NWQL also does biological classification for these customers. NWQL analyses services are provided on a reimbursable basis, with the price of services calculated to cover direct and indirect costs.

USGS Hydrologic Instrumentation Facility (HIF) C The HIF provides hydrologic instrumentation on a fee-for-service basis. The facility provides its customers with hydrologic instruments which can be rented or purchased, maintains a technical expertise on instrumentation, and tests and evaluates instruments as they become available in the marketplace.

Publications C This component provides a fee-for-service and investment mechanism for funding the production of publications, which often spans fiscal year boundaries. It is used by internal and external customers to pay costs for the publishing of technical and scientific reports as well as general interest and other publications deemed to be for the public good.

Eastern Region Research Laboratories (ERR) C This component includes two laboratories. The ERR Laboratories perform gaseous dissolved chlorofluorocarbon measurements and

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isotope-ratio measurements of water, sediments, rocks, and gases for all WRD district offices, other USGS divisions, and OFAs.

National Training Center C This component conducts fee-for-service USGS training programs. These programs include but are not limited to specialized training for USGS employees, cooperators, and international participants in many facets of hydrology, hydraulics, and water resources investigations, as well as computer applications, management seminars, and various workshops.

Drilling – This component provides drilling services to conduct exploratory drilling for obtaining geologic samples and cores in difficult hydrogeologic environments and the emplacement of sampling devices and sub-surface sensors for hydrologic investigations.

The WCF Components provide a mechanism to assist USGS managers in planning and acquiring goods and services which are too costly to acquire in a single fiscal year or which, due to the nature of services provided, must operate in a multi as opposed to single year basis of funding. Investments are supported by documented investment plans which include estimated acquisition/replacement costs, a schedule of deposits, and approval of the plans, deposits and expenditures by designated USGS officials. WCF Service Components provide a continuous cycle of client services for fees established in a rate setting process and, in some cases, with funding provided by appropriated funds. Fees are predicated upon both direct and indirect costs associated with providing the services, including amortization of equipment required to provide the services.

Appropriation Language and Citations

Permanent authority:

1. Provided further, That in fiscal year 1986 and thereafter, all amortization fees resulting from the Geological Survey providing telecommunications services shall be deposited in a special fund to be established on the books of the Treasury and be immediately available for payment of replacement or expansion of telecommunications services, to remain available until expended.

- **43 U.S.C.50a** This authority established the Telecommunications Amortization Fund which was displayed as part of the Surveys, Investigations and Research appropriation from FY 1986 through FY 1990. After FY 1991, the Telecommunications Amortization Fund was merged into the Working Capital Fund (WCF) described in the next citation.

2. There is hereby established in the Treasury of the United States a working capital fund to assist in the management of certain support activities of the United States Geological Survey (hereafter referred to as the ASurvey@), Department of the Interior. The fund shall be available on and after November 5, 1990 without fiscal year limitation for expenses necessary for furnishing materials, supplies, equipment, work, facilities, and services in support of Survey programs, and, as authorized by law, to agencies of the Federal Government and others. Such expenses may include laboratory modernization and equipment replacement, computer operations, maintenance, and telecommunications services; requirements definition, systems analysis, and design services; acquisition or development of software; systems support services such as implementation assistance, training, and maintenance; acquisition and replacement of computer, publications and scientific instrumentation, telecommunications, and related automatic data processing equipment; and, such other activities as may be approved by the Secretary of the Interior.

There are authorized to be transferred to the fund, at fair and reasonable values at the time of transfer, inventories, equipment, receivables, and other assets, less liabilities, related to the functions to be financed by the fund as determined by the Secretary of the Interior. Provided, That the fund shall be credited with appropriations and other funds of the Survey, and other agencies of the Department of the Interior, other Federal agencies, and other sources, for providing materials, supplies, equipment, work, and other services as authorized by law and such payments may be made in advance or upon performance: Provided further, That charges to users will be at rates approximately equal to the costs of furnishing the materials, supplies, equipment, facilities, and services, including such items as depreciation of equipment and facilities, and accrued annual leave: Provided further, That all existing balances as of November 5, 1990, from amortization fees resulting from the Survey providing telecommunications services and deposited in a special fund established on the books of the Treasury and available for payment of replacement or expansion of telecommunications services as authorized by Public Law 99-190, are hereby transferred to and merged with the working capital fund, to be used for the same purposes as originally authorized. Provided further, That funds that are not necessary to carry out the activities to be financed by the fund, as determined by the Secretary, shall be covered into miscellaneous receipts of the Treasury.

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- **P.L. 101-512 Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1991**
This authority established a Working Capital Fund account in FY 1991. The Telecommunications Amortization Fund was included as part of the WCF and all balances of the Telecommunications Amortization Fund existing at the end of FY 1990 were transferred to the WCF. These balances were to be used for the same purposes as originally authorized.
- **P.L. 103-332 Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1995**
The amendments that were made in this Appropriations Act are shown in underline. This authority expanded the use of the Working Capital Fund to partially fund laboratory operations and facilities improvements and to acquire and replace publication and scientific instrumentation and laboratory equipment.