



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
April 8, 2011

OPERATION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE TO CONTINUE IN THE EVENT OF A GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) will continue to operate critical infrastructure in the event of a government shutdown for budgetary reasons. However, the vast majority of USIBWC employees will be placed on furlough during the shutdown.

The USIBWC is responsible for applying the boundary and water treaties between the United States and Mexico. During a government shutdown, essential functions will continue such as delivering Rio Grande and Colorado River water to Mexico in accordance with the treaties, operation of dams and hydroelectric power plants on the Rio Grande, operation of international wastewater treatment plants, construction of Rio Grande levees with previously-obligated funds, operation of flood control infrastructure as needed, and ensuring the security of USIBWC facilities. A limited number of personnel needed to operate, support, and oversee these functions at agency field offices spanning the border from San Diego, California to the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas will be on duty during a shutdown.

USIBWC Headquarters in El Paso, Texas will be closed for business although a few Headquarters personnel will be on duty to support the critical activities described above.

USIBWC employees and members of the public are encouraged to follow news media reports and check this web page for additional updates about the status of the federal budget and any furlough affecting the USIBWC and other federal agencies.

For more information:

Sally Spener
915-832-4175