

News Release

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Corps of Engineers to nourish Rollover Pass beaches

A Galveston District Corps of Engineers emergency maintenance dredging project in the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway near Rollover Pass will provide a double benefit to that area. The dredging, which is scheduled to begin in January, will remove restrictive shoals from the GIWW from Rollover Pass to the Galveston Causeway and is designed to keep the shallow draft waterway open to barge traffic. In addition, the Corps plans to nourish Rollover Beach with part of the dredged material, both east and west of Rollover Pass as well as Little Beach.

"This emergency maintenance dredging project, which will remove approximately 1.35 million cubic yards of dredged material, is part of our efforts to ensure that damages from Hurricane Ike are taken care of," said Colonel David C. Weston, Galveston District commander. "We are focused on dealing with this past hurricane season and preparing for the 2009 season."

This beach nourishment process, called beneficial use, looks for environmentally and economically responsible ways to utilize dredged materials to benefit local communities. Beach nourishment is often one end result, and involves the improvement of eroded coastal beaches through the placement of dredged material. In this project, approximately 754,000 cubic yards of dredged material will be discharged to nourish the beaches. The dredging operations will be sequenced to complete the beach nourishment before the onset of sea turtle nesting season around mid-March.

The solicitation was issued on Dec. 12, and is scheduled to be open for bids on Dec. 19.

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