



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**  
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# News Release

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— FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE —

## **Debris from expended munitions found at Bethany Beach, no hazard to public**

PHILADELPHIA (Sep. 28, 2007): The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control today announced that in the course of sand pumping operations at Bethany Beach, a small amount of debris from expended munitions has been found on the beach near the dredge pipe outlet. The debris is totally inert and poses no hazard to the public. Examples include empty 0.50 caliber cartridge casings and projectiles and a variety of brass and copper fragments. (See attached photo.)

This discovery is not at all unexpected. The dredging contractor is using grids both on the dredge intake and on the outlet pipe to ensure that nothing exceeding 1.25" in diameter reaches the beach. These grids have proven to be very successful in screening out potentially hazardous ordnance, so that only harmless debris gets through. Then after each pumpout, the basket and its immediate area will be searched to remove any visible debris.

The project currently underway involves placement of approximately 3.2 million cubic yards of sand to create a beach-and-dune system along 2.8 miles of ocean front from the northern end of Bethany Beach to the Fenwick Island State Park. The sand is being pumped in from an offshore borrow area approximately 2.5 miles east of South Bethany. The Army Corps is managing initial construction and providing 65 percent of the \$19.8 million cost, while the DNREC is providing the balance of funds as the non-federal sponsor. The prime contractor is Weeks Marine, Inc., out of Covington, La.

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