US Army Corps of Engineers®
New York District

NEWS RELEASE

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Begins Long Branch Beach Renourishment Work

NEW YORK – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New York District, in partnership with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the city of Long Branch, N.J., began pumping hundreds of thousands of cubic yards of sand onto a quarter-mile stretch of beach in Long Branch over the weekend in order to provide storm damage reduction.

The sand is being pumped from a borrow area located on the ocean floor offshore of Sandy Hook, N.J., where sand for beaches has regularly come from for previous New Jersey beach nourishment projects from Sea Bright to Manasquan, since 1994. More than 15 million cubic yards has been used from that same borrow area over the years.

The Corps of Engineers regularly performs beach projects, but the Long Branch renourishment is interesting for a few reasons.

“Beach projects haven’t changed much over the years, but we’re always looking for ways to improve and to make the beach a better place for all stakeholders,” said Dan Falt, the Corps of Engineers project manager for the Long Branch renourishment.

The Long Branch project includes a feeder feature of fill which may add to the creation of offshore sand bars while maintaining the project’s storm damage reduction qualities. This will be done by creating a feeder beach that will allow sand to flow north in the shore currents toward the shoreline, giving the beach a varied shoreline shape and possibly some nearshore sand bars.

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"We worked with local surfing groups in our planning and I think the result is going to be a more surfer-friendly beach than past renourishments have provided," Falt said.

The New York District has also teamed with the Stevens Institute of Technology in cooperation with the NJDEP to monitor the ocean and shoreline adjacent to the Long Branch feeder feature. Students and faculty from Stevens will look at several aspects of the renourished beach over the course of a year to track everything from the erosion of the unique feeder feature, to creation of offshore bars, wave dynamics and how recreational use is impacted.

"The students and faculty at Stevens are going to be gathering an incredible amount of data that we'll hopefully be able to use in the future to make projects like this even better," Falt said.

Also, the Long Branch project will implement even more stringent screening of the sand being pumped than in the past to prevent accidentally pumping potentially dangerous items from the sea floor to the beach, like decades-old munitions. The sand will first be screened through a filter when it is pumped from the sea floor onto the dredge, which has been standard for renourishment projects from Sea Bright to Manasquan since 1994 and proved successful. The sand will also now be screened an additional time when it is actually pumped from the dredge onto the shoreline.

The pumping is expected to last about three months and be completed by March in time for the spring and summer tourist seasons, which are vital to the local economy.

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