



Brig. Gen. Kent Savre

Hurricane Sandy Recovery Mission

Commander's Update September 2013
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
North Atlantic Division



Stakeholders and Partners,

We're nearing the end of the summer season, and we were able to make steady and significant progress on many of our projects and studies on the North Atlantic coast thanks in large part to your continued support and partnership. It's been about 10 months since Hurricane Sandy battered our coast, and while we realize this is a multi-year effort, we are encouraged by the progress made so far.

Senior leaders' visit to New York

We were honored to host the Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works along with Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick, the commanding general of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Chief of Engineers, in late August to receive an update on Sandy recovery in New York. During their visit, we met with New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, senior staff in Governor Andrew Cuomo's office, Rep. Hakeem Jeffries and staff from Rep. Gregory Meeks' office. We arranged the engagements to continue communication between the Corps and our partners at the city, region and state level. The engagements accomplished a great deal to enhance strong relationships with our governmental partners. We expect our senior leaders to make a similar visit to New Jersey in the months ahead.

Progress on near-term coastal restoration

I'm pleased to report that we've achieved completion on four of our near-term coastal restoration projects--two in Virginia and two on the southern New Jersey coast. Restoration work is underway on the world's largest beachfill project by volume from Sea Bright to Manasquan on the northern New Jersey coast. As you may have seen in the news media, New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Senator Charles Schumer announced the near-term coastal restoration project beginning at Rockaway Beach in Queens, N.Y., around mid-August.

Flood risk reduction

We're glad that our work didn't significantly impede beach recreation season, but our effort is primarily for flood risk reduction. The majority of the work underway involves dredging material from the seafloor, running it through a hopper to sift out debris and then pumping sand onto beaches to rebuild dunes and widen the beach. The dunes and berms absorb the brunt of storm surge and wave energy, which reduces the risk of flooding the property and infrastructure behind them. This is a process that we fully anticipate needing to repeat if we get more severe storms that wash away dunes and berms or through time with beach erosion.

Safety

The safety of the public is our number one priority. To that end, it is crucial that beachgoers know that newly placed sand will naturally shift around in the first few months. This shift could make slopes different from what has previously been experienced. Also, for residents who live near coastlines that haven't yet been repaired and restored, they are vulnerable in the event of another storm, which is why we are committed to expediting these projects as much as possible. We have 36 percent of our funds for the near-term coastal restoration already obligated, and we are scheduled to have 100 percent of the funds obligated by summer 2014. We expect to complete the near-term coastal restoration in the fall of 2014.

To get updated information about Hurricane Sandy Coastal Recovery on the North Atlantic coast, visit our websites:
<http://www.nad.usace.army.mil/Sandy>
<http://www.nad.usace.army.mil/CompStudy>
<https://www.facebook.com/HurricaneSandyCoastalRecovery>
www.twitter.com/armyengineers

I sincerely appreciate your patience, understanding and collaboration as we restore our North Atlantic coast.

Building Strong – Bridging the Atlantic!

Kent D. Savre
Brigadier General, U.S. Army
Division Commander