



Brig. Gen. Kent Savre

Hurricane Sandy Recovery Mission

Commander's Update October 2014 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers North Atlantic Division



Partners and Stakeholders,

Twenty-one months ago, the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013 (PL 113-2) was passed, making possible recovery operations to reduce the risk of damage from future storms to the communities along the North Atlantic Coast. Two years after Hurricane Sandy hit, I am proud to report we have made significant progress in reducing risk from potential future storm events through planning, construction, and team work.

Since PL 113-2 was enacted, the North Atlantic Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has worked with our partners to complete 66 of 152 projects dotting the coastline from Maine to Virginia, including repairs of 46 Sandy-damaged navigation channels and structures, and completing restoration of 20 engineered beaches.

In the next few months, we will complete the restoration of our five remaining engineered beach projects that were damaged during Hurricane Sandy. When complete, we will have dredged, pumped and placed about 27 million cubic yards of sand onto beaches along roughly 60 miles of North Atlantic coastline.

In the next year, we anticipate substantial completion of our remaining operations and maintenance projects, including jetty and seawall repair and channel dredging across the region. Currently 93 percent of these projects have achieved contract award and/or notice-to-proceed-with-construction-contracts status.

We continue to make great progress on our 17 authorized but not yet constructed new engineered beach projects. The beachfill portion of Phase I of the Port Monmouth, New Jersey, project is complete, while a dune, groin, and pier extension, continue. Two more of these new engineered beach projects will begin construction shortly, following recent contract awards, and we are moving forward with our partners as quickly as we can to reduce risk to our coastal communities awaiting these projects.

With your help, we have expedited the process of comprehensive reviews and environmental coordination and have had excellent collaboration to ensure all the necessary agreements are in place. As a result, to date, nine project partnership agreements have been executed, and we are moving forward quickly with what will be the largest beach-building program in the history of the Northeast, placing an additional 50 million cubic yards of sand to reduce the risk of damage from future coastal storms.

We are simultaneously advancing our 17 ongoing studies funded in PL 113-2, with one scheduled for completion mid-November and 15 of the 16 remaining studies having already executed feasibility cost-sharing agreements.

Under our Continuing Authorities Program, seven areas affected by Hurricane Sandy have been identified where new

projects will be planned, and constructed through cost-share agreements with non-federal sponsors. Thirty-three additional projects are undergoing federal interest determinations for potential construction.

What's Ahead

Our North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study team is on schedule to submit the final report and associated products to Congress in January 2015. The final report will include a coastal framework as well as storm suite modeling, coastal Geographical Information Systems analysis, and related evaluations. Additionally, sea-level rise and climate change scenarios have been considered as part of the process of evaluating risk for vulnerable coastal populations, property, ecosystems, and infrastructure.

We could not achieve the level of success we have in executing our programs, while remaining focused on the efficient use of Federal taxpayer dollars, without continued and extensive vertical and horizontal collaboration within our organization, as well as with our valued Federal and Non-Federal partners.

What We Can All Do

Three quarters of the way through this year's hurricane season, our efforts to help communities lower their risk from coastal storm damage are still relevant and timely. Don't let what appears to be a mild season catch you off guard. The year Sandy hit was predicted to be near-normal, and as we all know, it takes only one storm surge to devastate communities up and down the entire coast.

This will be my last formal Commander's Update to you. However, as we complete a very productive year in this recovery effort and head into another one, please know that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will stay focused on our firm partner collaborations and steadfast teamwork. And as always, I and my entire North Atlantic Division team stand ready to hear your ideas, respond to your queries, and continue our joint mission to lower storm damage risk for our entire North Atlantic Coast.

Building Strong – Bridging the Atlantic!

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