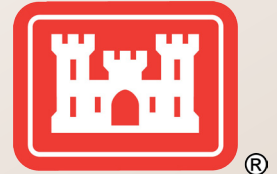




Brig. Gen. Kent Savre

Hurricane Sandy Recovery Mission

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



Partners and Stakeholders,

As we celebrate the holiday season, it's important to keep in our thoughts and prayers those who lost so much last year from Hurricane Sandy. The devastation is still felt among our friends, families and within our workforce. We know the criticality of reducing flood risk from coastal storms along our North Atlantic coast and we are working hard with our partners to accomplish our work. We continue to make good progress in restoring the risk reduction and navigation projects that were impacted during the storm. And we are operating with a standard of concurrent – not sequential – phasing of implementing projects that reduce flood risk from coastal storms.

Recently, we completed beachfill work in Delaware, and overall we've achieved physical completion on 11 out of 25 beach restoration projects from Virginia to Connecticut. We're approaching the halfway mark of placing approximately 27 million cubic yards of sand, and we expect sand placement to increase substantially in the next two months. All 25 beach restoration projects to restore previously constructed engineered beaches are scheduled for completion by next fall.

We continue efforts – primarily dredging – to restore navigation channels and operation and maintenance projects that were impacted by Hurricane Sandy. We are at another halfway mark, with 45 of 85 projects underway or completed. We estimate completion of these projects by spring 2015.

What's Ahead

You may have seen recently some of the high-level interest in our program, such as Nov. 6 when the [Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works joined other experts in testifying before a Senate subcommittee](#). We attribute this increasing interest to the upcoming and much-anticipated construction of 18 authorized but never constructed projects along the North Atlantic coast. Of the more than \$5 billion appropriated to the national U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the North Atlantic Division is poised to execute nearly \$3 billion of it to implement flood risk reduction projects along the North Atlantic coast, especially in the hardest-hit states like New Jersey and New York.

But we need more than just dollars to implement these projects. We've already determined federal interest to implement the projects, but in some cases, a non-federal sponsor must share a portion of the construction and operation and maintenance costs. We also rely on our partners to secure real estate easements, permits, and a host of other factors necessary to see projects through.

What We Can All Do

We fully realize that we're not in this recovery alone. The North Atlantic Division continues to collaborate and communicate with everyone who has a stake in Hurricane Sandy recovery. We're grateful for the support and assistance we've received in the first year of recovery, and we're committed to continuing these valuable partnerships in the next several years and beyond. From even before Oct. 29, 2012, this has been a team effort to prepare for, respond to and recover from the largest Atlantic hurricane on record.

The passage of time can fade memories and lessen importance of reducing risk from coastal storms, but we must place similar emphasis on the recovery effort as we did at this time in 2012. Let's remain aware and dedicated to not only recovering from Sandy, but also to enhancing resilience to future extreme weather, which we know is a new reality.

I speak for everyone in our organization when I say we remain steadfast to continuing to be valuable partners in the recovery process. We know frequent, transparent communication is our best tool to enhance partnerships going forward. I personally, and the rest of the team, are available and eager to meet with you, respond to your questions, hear your concerns and suggestions, and always be your teammate in this massive undertaking.

Building Strong – Bridging the Atlantic!

Kent D. Savre
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Division Commander