



Brig. Gen. Kent Savre

Hurricane Sandy Recovery Mission

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



Partners and Stakeholders,

As we approach the first anniversary of Hurricane Sandy's landfall on the North Atlantic coast, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers continues to leverage the capabilities of the entire organization to assist in the region's recovery. Many of our team members live in communities impacted by Hurricane Sandy, and this undertaking extends well beyond professional duty. For us, this has become a personal mission and successful delivery of the Hurricane Sandy Coastal Management program is the only acceptable outcome.

In collaboration with our federal, state and local partners, we have made significant progress in restoring the risk reduction and navigation projects that were impacted during the storm. We have completed five near-term coastal restoration projects with 14 currently in construction. In the eight months since federal funds were appropriated, the Corps has placed roughly 12 million cubic yards of sand on existing beach projects along the coast, which is enough sand to fill nearly nine Empire State Buildings.

In addition to restoring damaged risk reduction projects, we are addressing navigation and operation and maintenance projects that were impacted by Hurricane Sandy. Over the last 12 months, work has been completed on 18 of these projects and an additional 16 are currently under construction.

Authorized but not yet constructed

Hurricane Sandy demonstrated the importance and value of storm damage risk reduction measures along the North Atlantic coast. In addition to restoring navigation channels, beaches and other damaged infrastructure to pre-storm or original design conditions, the Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013 allocated \$2.76 billion to construct in the North Atlantic Division area of responsibility coastal storm damage risk reduction projects that were authorized but had not yet been constructed at the time of the storm. These projects are critical for reducing vulnerability in the

Sandy-impacted area. Fully understanding the importance of these projects, the Army Corps has implemented measures in our project delivery process to move these projects forward expeditiously without sacrificing quality or safety.

We currently anticipate that, by the end of 2015, nine of these 18 projects will be completed and six more will be in construction. However, the Army Corps cannot maintain these aggressive schedules alone. We are committed to working closely with our non-federal sponsors to achieve the needed project partnership agreements and to obtain the real estate easements that are required before we can proceed to construction. Once complete, these projects will be an integral component of the effort to provide the North Atlantic region with the best level of coastal storm damage risk reduction in its history.

Risk reduction and residual risk

Although it took only a matter of hours for Hurricane Sandy to cause widespread damage throughout the region, recovering from the second costliest hurricane in our Nation's history and improving coastal storm damage risk reduction will be a long and complex task. As part of the federal government's commitment to the area, the Army Corps is determined to fulfill this critical endeavor.

Please keep in mind that regardless of how many storm damage risk reduction features are put into place or how high, wide or strong they are constructed, there will always be residual risk. Because there is always the potential for an even a bigger storm, we need your help to ensure that residents along the North Atlantic coast fully understand this residual risk. As part of our commitment to the North Atlantic region, the Army Corps will continue to provide our partners, stakeholders and the general public accurate and current information so that the men and women of this region can make risk-informed decisions. We can only consider our post-Sandy efforts complete when we have both the risk reduction measures in place and an informed public.

Building Strong – Bridging the Atlantic!

Kent D. Savre
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Division Commander