

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Philadelphia District has announced the schedule for the beach replenishment in the Towns of Bethany, South Bethany, and Fenwick Island. The work in South Bethany is slated to begin mid-June and is scheduled for completion within 23 days.

The total contract cost for the replenishment is \$19,284,320.00. The base bid also includes the construction or repair of pedestrian, vehicle, and ADA accessible dune crossovers; the partial demolition of an ADA accessible crossover, including piles, and post and rail fence; planting dune grass; and installing new sand fence and post and rail fence in the three coastal towns. Dune grass will be planted in late 2018 after the first frost. Approximately 1,437,000 cubic yards of sand is proposed to restore our beaches, with 500,000 cubic yards planned for South Bethany.

The project will begin in Bethany Beach, move to South Bethany and then to Fenwick Island. Work is scheduled for completion in Fenwick Island by mid to late July. Staging will occur in mid-April, with the staging area in South Bethany planned for the sand lot south of the intersection of South Ocean Drive and Logan Street.

The project involves dredging sand from approved offshore borrow areas. The sand is pumped through a series of pipes onto the beaches via hopper dredges owned and operated by Great Lakes. The sand is then graded into a dune and berm template designed to reduce potential storm damages to infrastructure, businesses and homes.

The schedule of construction in South Bethany calls for the beach to be repaired beginning north near North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, and south near Jamaica and Indian Streets. The replenishment is done by 'flipping' back and forth from the northern location to the southern location

**To assure the project is completed as quickly as possible, construction is scheduled to occur 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.**

During construction a 1,000-linear foot portion of the beach will be closed. This 1,000' closure will be a "rolling" closure and move as the repair and replenishment work is completed. It is estimated that 200' of beach will be repaired and restored every 24 hours.

The USACE Bethany Beach/South Bethany and Fenwick Island Coastal Storm Damage Reduction Project was first constructed in 2008. The design template includes a 150-foot beach (berm) backed by a dune at elevation 16 feet (North American Vertical Datum). The current contract involves pumping 659,000 cubic yards of sand onto Bethany Beach, 500,000 cubic yards of sand onto South Bethany and 278,000 cubic yards onto Fenwick Island.

Scheduling this project is complicated and neither the State of Delaware, USACE, nor the affected communities, can plan these projects as they would like. Scheduling is driven by many factors outside of their control. A few of these factors include the timing of funding, obtaining necessary permitting, survey and plan development, and the availability of dredging companies.

The Town of South Bethany thanks our Congressional delegation and Senator Carper for their relentless work on our behalf. Their tireless efforts procured the funding for this project and will give us back our beach and protective dune.