



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WILMINGTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69 DARLINGTON AVENUE
WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA 28403-1343

JAN 13 2010

Environmental Resources Section

Dear Sir or Madam:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement, Coastal Storm Damage Reduction, Surf City and North Topsail Beach, North Carolina, dated August 2009. The purpose of this project is to evaluate coastal storm damage reduction for the Towns of Surf City and North Topsail Beach, North Carolina and develop the most suitable plan of damage reduction for the present and future conditions for a 50-year period of analysis. This document is being circulated to agencies and the public for a 45-day comment period.

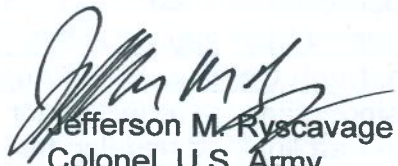
The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was prepared to fulfill the reporting requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District (Corps), has investigated opportunities for coastal storm damage reduction in the project area. Alternatives include a nonstructural plan, dunes and/or berms of various dimensions, and no-action. After consideration of the costs, benefits, and environmental consequences of the proposed and alternative actions, the Corps proposed to construct the alternative plan that had the greatest net National Economic Development (NED) benefits or the NED Plan. No Locally Preferred Plan was suggested; therefore, the NED plan is the tentatively recommended plan of improvement.

The tentatively selected NED plan consists of a sand dune constructed to an elevation of 15 feet above the National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD), fronted by a 50-foot wide beach berm constructed to an elevation of 7 feet above NGVD. The berm and dune project extends along a reach of 52,150 feet. This plan is identified among the other alternatives as "Plan 1550". At the project ends the cross sections will begin transitions to terminate gradually according to conditions existing at construction.

The proposed source of sand for initial construction and periodic nourishment is sixteen borrow areas which are typically located between 1 and 6 miles offshore and have pre-dredge bottom depths between 35 and 50 feet. These borrow areas include 10 identified for the Surf City/North Topsail Beach project and the excess amount from 6 borrow areas identified for the Topsail Beach Federal project, which is contiguous and south of the proposed project.

The enclosed report has been filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. In order to ensure full consideration of all comments, we are requesting that written comments be mailed to Colonel Jefferson M. Ryscavage at the above address to arrive at our office no later than March 8, 2010. If you require more information or have any questions, please contact Mr. Doug Piatkowski, Environmental Resources Section, at (910) 251-4908 or by electronic mail at douglas.piatkowski@usace.army.mil or Ms. Jan Brodmerkel, Project Manager at (910) 251-4763 or by electronic mail at jan.p.brodmerkel@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,



Jefferson M. Ryscavage
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Commander

Enclosure