



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Wilmington District

Ocean Isle Beach Terminal Groin Project Brunswick County, North Carolina (Regulatory)

- **Regulatory Action:** Reviewing the town's proposal pursuant to NEPA/EIS procedures.
- **Current concerns:** Environmental concerns regarding use of terminal groins/installation of a hardened structure along the oceanfront shoreline. Implementation of Senate Bill 110.



CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: NC - 7

DATE: 8 April 2013

1. **PURPOSE:**

To provide information regarding the current status of the town of Ocean Isle Beach proposal to install a terminal groin structure on the eastern end of Ocean Isle Beach at Shallotte Inlet, Brunswick County, North Carolina. Action ID: 2011-01241.

2. **BACKGROUND:**

a. With the passing of Senate Bill 110, which allows the installation of (4) terminal groins for the entire state of NC, the town of Ocean Isle Beach (Town) is vying to obtain the proper permits in order to be included as one of the four. The town will be pursuing authorization, pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, to protect residential houses and infrastructure along the eastern end, which borders Shallotte Inlet.

b. The Corps, in coordination with the NC Division of Coastal Management and Ocean Isle Beach, has determined that the project proposal will be reviewed pursuant to the NEPA Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) procedures with an EIS document being prepared by a third party contractor. The Corps has had several discussions with the town's Mayor and Manager regarding the Corps' Regulatory EIS and third party contracting processes.

c. At the request of the town, an interagency meeting was held on 18 January 2012 at the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources Regional Office in Wilmington to discuss their

PROJECT INFORMATION – Ocean Isle Beach Terminal Groin Project, Brunswick County (Regulatory), Continued

plans to protect the eastern end of Ocean Isle Beach. The Corps summarized the permitting process and steps needed for the applicant to select a third party contractor to prepare the EIS document.

d. Coastal Planning & Engineering, Inc. (CPE) completed a feasibility study for the project in May 2012 and the town determined that they would like to move forward with the project. On 16 May 2012, the town submitted a report identifying CPE as their preferred third party contractor to prepare the EIS.

e. On 11 June 2012, the Corps prepared a letter to the town supporting their decision to retain CPE with the Corps supervising and directing the preparation of the EIS document. A Processing Agreement was enclosed for the town's signature.

f. On 13 July 2012, CPE signed the Disclosure Statement certifying that they would not enter any financial agreement with the town except with regard to the preparation of the EIS.

g. On 21 August 2012, the Processing Agreement was signed between the Corps and the town and on 29 August a meeting was held to further clarify this agreement and discuss the next steps with regards to the Public Scoping Meeting.

h. On 21 September 2012, a Notice of Intent to prepare a Draft EIS was published in the Federal Register. Likewise, a Public Notice was issued on the same day announcing the project proposal and upcoming Public Scoping Meeting.

i. A Public Scoping Meeting was held 3 October 2012 at the Ocean Isle Beach Town Hall. Comments were received from over 60 citizens who attended. Additional comments were also received from federal and state agencies and the public until 26 October 2012.

3. **CURRENT STATUS:**

The Corps requested an official work plan from the third party contractor which is still awaiting receipt. The Corps has categorized the comment responses and provided them to CPE to incorporate into the Draft EIS. The Corps has requested a list of potential Project Review Team (PRT) members from the town and is looking to have a first meeting with the PRT in the near future.