



US Army Corps
Of Engineers
Wilmington District

PUBLIC NOTICE

Issue Date: December 13, 2007
Comment Deadline: January 30, 2008
Corps Action ID #: 2005-344-067

All interested parties are hereby advised that the Wilmington District, Corps of Engineers (Corps) is releasing the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and announcing a Public Hearing for the project, known as North Topsail Beach Shoreline Protection Project, which will nourish approximately 11.1 miles of North Topsail Beach using material from offshore borrow site(s) and from the New River Inlet as part of a comprehensive inlet management plan. Specific plans and location information are described below and shown on the attached plan. This Public Notice is also available on the Wilmington District Web Site at www.saw.usace.army.mil/wetlands

**Public Hearing will be held at the North Topsail Beach Town Hall, at 2008
Loggerhead Court, in North Topsail Beach, on January 9, 2008 at 6:30 P.M.**

Applicant: North Topsail Beach
Attention: Mr. Tom Taylor (Interim Town Manager)
2008 Loggerhead Court
North Topsail Beach, North Carolina 28460

AGENT (if applicable): Coastal Planning & Engineering, Inc.
Attention: Ms. Erin Hague
2481 N.W. Boca Raton Boulevard
Boca Raton, Florida 33431

Authority

The Corps will evaluate this project pursuant to applicable procedures to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act.

Location

The project site is located at 34-491833 and 77-419735, north-northwest portion of Topsail Island and within the New River Inlet, and will encompass approximately 11.1 miles of ocean shoreline in North Topsail Beach, Onslow County, North Carolina.

Existing Site Conditions

The ocean shoreline of North Topsail Beach encompasses approximately 11.1 miles along the northern end of Topsail Island. The majority of the central and northern sections of

the beach are located within the Coastal Barrier Resource System (CBRS), which prohibits the expenditure of Federal funds pursuant to the Coastal Barrier Resource Act of 1982 (CBRA-82) and the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990 (CBIA-90). The Town is currently pursuing and evaluating a non-federal shoreline protection plan to nourish these two sections, as well as the southern section, which is outside of the CBRS. The southern section, which encompasses 3.85 miles, is currently being studied by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the development of a long-term Federal shoreline protection plan for this section of North Topsail Beach. The Town's proposal includes the south section due to some delays with the Federal study.

The channel through New River Inlet has been maintained by the COE for commercial and recreational boating interest for over 55 years. The COE is authorized to maintain the channel in the inlet to a depth of 6 feet mean low water (mlw) over a width of 90 feet.

Applicant's Stated Purpose

The Town of North Topsail Beach is proposing to nourish the oceanfront shoreline and reposition New River Inlet channel as a means to address a severe erosion problem that is threatening development and town infrastructure. The entire stretch of the Town's shoreline has experienced a considerable amount of erosion over the last 20 years due primarily to the impact of numerous tropical storms and hurricanes during the mid to late 1990's and due to impacts of the uncontrolled movement of the main ebb channel in New River Inlet. The Town has stated that the shoreline erosion and residual effects of the storms have left North Topsail Beach in an extremely vulnerable position with regard to its ocean front development and infrastructure. They have estimated that over \$250 million in property tax value as well as roads, water and sewer lines, and other utilities are at risk. The stated goals and objectives of the project are the following: 1) Stabilize the oceanfront shoreline located immediately south of New River Inlet, 2) Provide short-term protection to the 31 imminently threatened residential structures over the next zero to five years, 3) Provide long-term protection to Town infrastructure and approximately 1,200 homes over the next thirty years, 4) Reduce or mitigate for historic shoreline erosion along 11.1 miles of oceanfront shoreline, 5) Improve recreational opportunities, 6) Use beach compatible material, 6) Maintain the Town's tax base, and 7) Balance the needs of the human environment with the protection of existing natural resources.

Project Description

The project is divided into three sections; North, South, and Central. The North Section starts from the inlet shoulder and runs approximately 21,000 linear feet along the ocean shoreline. The Central Section is located both north and south of NC Hwy 210/55 Bridge and is approximately 16,500 linear feet, while the South Section, which is outside of the CBRS designation, includes approximately 20,320 linear feet of shoreline. The Town is proposing to undertake the nourishment along the 11.1 miles of oceanfront in a five phase approach within a dredging window between November 16 and March 31 of any year.

The first phase will include the relocation of the inlet channel with the dredged inlet material being used to nourish approximately 14,000 linear feet of shoreline in the North Section. Construction timeline for Phase One will be within the 2008-2009 dredging window. Phase Two would take place during the 2010-2011 dredging window using the offshore borrow source, and will nourish approximately 5,140 linear feet in the North Section. The third phase will place offshore borrow material along approximately 11,500 linear feet within the southern part of the Central Section, and is proposed during the 2012-2013 dredging window. For Phase Four, offshore material will be used to nourish 6,880 linear feet of shoreline in the north part of the Central Section and part of the southern tip of the North Section. This construction will take place in the 2014-2015 dredging window. The final phase of nourishment will encompass the entire South Section, using the offshore borrow site, and will be conducted in the 2016-2017 dredging window.

Within the Town's preferred alternative, the relocation of the inlet channel is a main component in the protection of the North Section of the project area. The inlet management plan includes the repositioning the main ocean bar channel to a more southerly alignment along an approximate 150 degree azimuth and maintaining that position and alignment approximately every four years. Initial construction of the new channel and subsequent maintenance events will result in a channel width of 500 feet at -18 foot NAVD depth. The new channel will start within the inlet gorge and will extend approximately 3,500 linear feet southeast breaching through the ocean bar. The amount of material to be extracted during the realignment of the channel is approximately 635,800 cubic yards. The composite mean grain size of the dredged material is approximately 0.32mm, compared to the native beach material at 0.23mm.

For the remaining phases, all the material used to nourish the beaches will be dredged from an offshore borrow area. The borrow area is located approximately 1.5 miles offshore within the Central Section, and just southwest of the NC 210 bridge. The site is approximately 482 acres in size and is divided into two sections: 1) a 459-acre area with finer grain size (composite mean grain size of 0.21mm) containing approximately 6.19 million cubic yards and 2) a 23-acre area with coarser material at a composite mean grain size of 0.33mm encompassing approximately 357,000 cubic yards. The division of the borrow site into coarser and finer materials resulted in the use of the Point of Intercept Concept or "perched beached" for the placement of material in areas where nearshore hard bottom communities were present. For nourishment in areas within close proximity to nearshore hard bottoms, the beach profiles were designed to use coarser material in order to reduce the fill toe of equilibrium.

This notice is to inform interested parties of our issued December 14, 2007 Notice to release the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and to announce a Public Hearing for this project, which can be found on the Federal Register website, <http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/the-federal-register/about.html>. Once you have connected with the website, click on Today's Issue (top left) and go to Engineers Corps to locate subject matter. Additionally, copies of the Draft EIS have been placed on the Coastal Planning & Engineering located at

<http://www.coastalplanning.net/projects/temp/ntopsail.html>. The Public Hearing will be held at the North Topsail Beach Town Hall, at 2008 Loggerhead Court, in North Topsail Beach, on January 9, 2008 at 6:30 P.M.

As disclosed in the Notice, any written comments pertinent to the proposed work, as outlined above, must be submitted to this office, Attention: Mickey T. Sugg, until 4:15 P.M., January 30, 2008. Question can be directed to Mr. Sugg at (910) 251-4811, Wilmington Regulatory Field Office.