Feasibility Report
and
Environmental Impact Statement
on
Coastal Storm Damage Reduction

SURF CITY AND NORTH TOPSAIL BEACH, NORTH CAROLINA

Appendix H
Correspondence
Appendix H

Correspondence

This appendix includes correspondence received from the sponsors and other agencies. Other correspondence from the NEPA scoping process is contained in Appendix K. Correspondence regarding Public Review [ will be / is ] contained in Appendix T.

April 27, 2001 - Letter from North Topsail Beach Mayor to District Engineer supporting Feasibility Study and confirming understanding cost sharing for the study and construction phases.

May 8, 2001 - Letter from Surf City Mayor to District Engineer supporting Feasibility Study and confirming understanding cost sharing for the study and construction phases.

August 3, 2005 – Letter from NC State Historic Preservation Office concurring that no additional archaeological survey of borrow areas are recommended.

November 7, 2007 – Letter from Wilmington District to DOI Minerals Management Service requesting MMS to serve as a cooperating agency on this project.

February 7, 2008 – Letter from MMS to Wilmington District agreeing to serve as cooperating agency.

July 1, 2010 – Letter from Surf City Mayor to District Engineer supporting the proposed Project

June 9, 2010 – Self Certification of Financial Capability by Town of Surf City

June 4, 2010 - Letter from Surf City Mayor to District Engineer assuring compliance by town in obtaining required parking and access.

July 1, 2010 – Letter from North Topsail Beach Mayor to District Engineer supporting the proposed project

June 11, 2010 – Self Certification of Financial Capability by Town of North Topsail Beach

June 11, 2010 - Letter from North Topsail Beach Mayor to District Engineer assuring compliance by town in obtaining required parking and access.

Dec 13, 2010 – Letter from NCDENR to District Engineer indicating support by the State of North Carolina for the Proposed Project
April 27, 2001

Colonel James W. DeLony
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Wilmington District
P.O. Box 1890
Wilmington, NC 28402-1890

Dear Colonel DeLony:

We have been participating in the Corps of Engineers' Reconnaissance Study for shore protection and related purposes for North Topsail Beach and Surf City, North Carolina.

We are concerned about the unprecedented erosion of the berm and dune along North Topsail Beach and Surf City, and the high vulnerability of our towns to the predicted increase in hurricanes, and appreciate your work on our behalf. We believe that further study of possible shore protection and related purposes can be a valuable contribution toward protecting our citizens. We support your continuing work on the Reconnaissance Study and seeking funding for the cost shared Feasibility Study.

North Topsail Beach is prepared to participate in development of the Project Study Plan (PSP), and to be a co-sponsor with the Town of Surf City of a Feasibility Study for this shore protection and related purposes at North Topsail Beach and Surf City. We understand that the preliminary estimated cost of the Feasibility Study indicates the total non-federal funding obligation for fifty percent of the cost would be approximately $1,500,000. The Town of North Topsail Beach is prepared to negotiate a Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement (FCSA), along with the Town of Surf City, with the Wilmington District at the proper time. We understand that the amount of non-federal funds required from North Topsail Beach and Surf City is initially estimated to be $750,000 from each Town. We also are prepared to negotiate the terms of the non-federal funding for thirty-five percent of the cost for initial construction and 50 percent for future nourishment of any agreed upon project.
The Town of North Topsail Beach expects to obtain fifty percent of the funds it must provide for these activities from the State of North Carolina, Division of Water Resources. The remaining funds are to be provided by the Town of North Topsail Beach from property tax revenues, proceeds from passage of bond referendum, flood control assessments or other Town or Onslow County action.

Mr. John J. Flynn will serve as representative from the North Topsail Beach Board of Aldermen and Mr. Tony Hammond is designated as the North Topsail Beach Town staff point-of-contact for shore protection and related programs for North Topsail Beach and Surf City. Other staff members may be designated to participate in the Feasibility Study.

We look forward to working with you further on this effort to improve shore protection along North Topsail Beach and Surf City, North Carolina.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Marlow F. Bostic, Jr.
Mayor

MFB/Imc
May 8, 2001

Colonel James W. DeLony
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Wilmington District
Post Office Box 1890
Wilmington, North Carolina 28402-1890

Dear Colonel DeLony:

We have been participating in the Corps of Engineers’ Reconnaissance Study for shore protection and related purposes for North Topsail Beach and Surf City, North Carolina.

We are concerned about the unprecedented erosion of the berm and dune along North Topsail Beach and Surf City, and the high vulnerability of our towns to the predicted increase in hurricanes, and appreciate your work on our behalf. We believe that further study of possible shore protection and related purposes can be a valuable contribution toward protecting our citizens. We support your continuing work on the Reconnaissance Study and seeking funding for the cost shared Feasibility Study.

Surf City is prepared to participate in development of the Project Study Plan (PSP), and to be a co-sponsor with the Town of North Topsail Beach of a Feasibility Study for this shore protection and related purposes at North Topsail Beach and Surf City. We understand that the preliminary estimated cost of the Feasibility Study indicates the total non-federal funding obligation for fifty percent of the cost would be approximately $1,500,000. The Town of Surf City is prepared to negotiate a Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement (FCSA), along with the Town of North Topsail Beach, with the Wilmington District at the proper time. We understand that the amount of non-federal funds required from North Topsail Beach and Surf City is initially estimated to be $750,000 from each town. We also are prepared to negotiate the terms of the non-federal funding for thirty-five percent of the cost for initial construction and 50 percent of future nourishment of any agreed upon project.

The Town of Surf City expects to obtain fifty percent of the funds it must provide for these activities from the State of North Carolina, Division of Water Resources. The remaining funds are to be provided by the Town of Surf City from property tax revenues, proceeds from passage of bond referendum, flood control assessments or other Town action.
Patrick Thomas, Surf City town manager, will be Surf City’s lead representative for the study of shore protection and related purposes for North Topsail Beach and Surf City. He may designate other staff members to participate in the Study in various ways.

We look forward to working with you further on this effort to improve shore protection along North Topsail Beach and Surf City, North Carolina.

Sincerely,

A. D. (Zander) Guy, Jr.
Mayor
August 3, 2005

Richard H. Kimmel
Environmental Resources Section
Department of the Army
Wilmington District, Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 1890
Wilmington, NC 28402-1890

RE: Draft Report: An Archaeological Remote Sensing Survey of Surf City-North Topsail Beaches Borrow Areas, Bib #5524, Pender and Onslow Counties, CH 01-0497

Dear Mr. Kimmel:

We have received the draft report summarizing the remote sensing surveys conducted by Mid-Atlantic Technology and Environmental Research, Inc. (M-AT/ER) in proposed offshore sand borrow areas near Surf City and North Topsail Beaches.

No previously recorded archaeological sites occur within the seven proposed sand borrow areas. M-AT/ER conducted marine magnetometer and side-scan sonar surveys of the proposed borrow areas for the purpose of identifying any potential archaeological resources that might be impacted by the offshore dredging activities. The survey identified no single source magnetic anomalies or acoustic targets with characteristics suggesting significant cultural resources within the proposed sand borrow areas. Because of these findings, we concur with the recommendation for no additional archaeological investigations related to sand mining activities in the seven proposed borrow areas.

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration. If you have questions concerning the above comment, please contact Renee Gledhill-Earley, environmental review coordinator, at 919/733-4763. In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above-referenced tracking number.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Peter Sandbeck
IN REPLY REFER TO

November 7, 2007

Environmental Resources Section

Ms. Renee Orr, Chief
Sand and Gravel Program
Minerals Management Service
Mail Stop 4010381 Elden Street
Herndon, Virginia 22071

Dear Ms. Orr:

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District is conducting a study to evaluate a shore protection project for the towns of Surf City and North Topsail Beach, North Carolina (Figure 1). As indicated in detail below, the purpose of this letter is to request that Minerals Management Service be a cooperating agency for this project.

Topsail Island is on the southeastern North Carolina coast. From south to north the three towns on the island are Topsail Beach, Surf City and North Topsail Beach. The primary study area for this report includes the Towns of Surf City and North Topsail Beach and the associated offshore borrow sites. The Towns of Surf City and North Topsail Beach are the project sponsors and the results of the study will be documented in a forthcoming integrated Feasibility Report and Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Ten borrow areas, identified as G, H, J, L, N, O, P, Sand T (Figures 2 and 3) have been identified for the 50-year period of analysis for the Surf City/North Topsail Beach Shore Protection Project. As shown in Table 1, borrow areas F, I, M and R have been tentatively omitted from the plan based on the existing, limited subsurface analysis that indicates that these sites may not meet the current Coastal Resource Commission (CRC) regulations for beach compatibility. However, additional subsurface analysis is planned prior to project construction which could determine that these sites meet the CRC compatibility criteria and thus may be used for the project. Site K has been permanently deleted due to its close proximity to hardbottom. With the exception of borrow sites I, O, and R, which are less than 3 miles offshore, all other sites (G, H, J, L, N, O, P, Sand T) are typically between 3 and 6 miles offshore. All borrow areas have bottom depths of less than 66 feet, contain material that has approximately 10% passing the #200 sieve or less, and contain material that is compatible with the native material on the beaches. Borrow areas were identified based on
material characteristics and depth of suitable material. Magnetometer and side-scan sonar (acoustic) surveys were used to identify and thus avoid cultural resources as well as hardbottom areas. Borrow area characteristics are summarized below in Table 1.

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<th>Location (see Fig 1)</th>
<th>Mean Grain Size (phi)</th>
<th>Standard Deviation (phi)</th>
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* Material planned to be used on Topsail Beach project. All of the available material will not be needed for Topsail Beach and may be used for Surf City and North Topsail Beach.

Table 1. Surf City (SC) and North Topsail Beach (NTB) Borrow Area Characteristics.

Although a detailed borrow area use plan has not yet been developed, the project would entail removing sand from the borrow areas listed above. It is anticipated that approximately 31 million cubic yards of material would be needed
to construct the Surf City and North Topsail Beach shore protection project. Please be advised that we intend to seek all required approvals from the Minerals Management Service for such sand removal.

Pursuant to 40 CFR 1501, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Wilmington District requests that the Minerals Management Service serve as a cooperating agency during the required National Environmental Policy Act process for the Surf City and North Topsail Beach Shore Protection Project. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers further requests that MMS serve as a cooperating agency on environmental requirements related to the Endangered Species Act, National Historic Preservation Act, Coastal Zone Management Act, and Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Management and Conservation Act. This letter serves as the coordinating request prescribed for ESA Section 7 (50 CFR 402), NHPA Section 106 (36 CFR 800), Subpart C Consistency (15 CFR 930), and Magnuson-Stevens Section 305 (50 CFR 600). Pursuant to 50 CFR 402, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will notify the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service of its lead role and MMS' cooperating role provided your agreement to serve as a cooperating agency.

Please advise us, at your earliest convenience, as to your agency's willingness to serve as a cooperating agency in the NEPA process for this project. Jenny Owens, Environmental Resources Section, will serve as the major point of contact for any MMS involvement in this project, and she can be reached at 910-251-4757 in the event that you would like additional information regarding this matter. We look forward to an efficient and productive relationship with MMS regarding this important shore protection project.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

W. Coleman Long
Chief, Planning and Environmental Branch
Figure 1. Surf City, North Topsail Beach Project Study Area

NOTE: No transition required if Topsail Beach project constructed first.
Figure 2. Borrow Areas (1 of 2)
Mr. W. Coleman Long  
Chief, Planning and Environmental Branch  
Environmental Resources Branch  
Department of the Army  
Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District  
P.O. Box 1890  
Wilmington, North Carolina 28402

Dear Mr. Long:

Thank you for your November 7, 2007, letter requesting Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) sand for the Surf City / North Topsail Beach Shore Protection Project, and that the Minerals Management Service (MMS) become a cooperating agency during the required National Environment Act (NEPA) process. The MMS welcomes the opportunity to participate in the NEPA effort and agrees to serve as a cooperating agency. As a cooperating agency we expect to: participate in the NEPA process at the earliest possible time; participate in the seeping process; assume, on the request of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), responsibility for developing information and preparing environmental analyses for which the MMS has special expertise; make available staff support at the lead agency’s request to enhance the interdisciplinary capability of the USACE; and use our own funds to accomplish these responsibilities.

The MMS also agrees to participate in: the required Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 consultation; the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery and Conservation Management Act Essential Fish Habitat consultation (Section 305); the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 process; and the Coastal Zone Management Act Section 307 consistency determination. As the lead federal agency for ESA Section 7 and the Essential Fish Habitat consultations, the USACE must notify U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) of its lead role and MMS’ cooperating role. We would expect to jointly submit with the USACE the ESA Section 7 and Essential Fish Habitat assessments to FWS and NMFS.

The USACE recommended plan requires about 11.5 million cubic yards of borrow material during initial construction. Thereafter, the project maintenance requirements for the 4-year renourishment cycle are about 1.6 million cubic yards of borrow material over the 50-year project. It is MMS policy to negotiate a new agreement for each use of OCS material (or per nourishment event); therefore, this agreement only applies to the NEPA and environmental requirements for initial construction. The final NEPA document, as well as the outcome of the other environmental requirements, may be used to establish stipulations or conditions in the final negotiated agreement.

TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA
The MMS looks forward to working with you during this process. We ask that the following staff be included on all communication regarding this project, Geoffrey Wikel, Leasing Division, (703) 787-1283 and Sally Valdes, Environmental Division, (703) 787-1707. If you would like to discuss any of these items further, please contact Sally Valdes at (703) 787-1707.

Sincerely,

James F. Bennett
Chief, Branch of Environmental Assessment
Environmental Division
TOWN OF SURF CITY
P. O. BOX 2475  214 N. NEW RIVER DRIVE  SURF CITY, NC 28445
Telephone: (910) 328-4131  Fax: (910) 328-4132
www.townofsurfcity.com

A. D. (Zander) Guy, Jr., Mayor
Douglas C. Medlin, Mayor Pro-tem
Nelva R. Albury, Council Member
July 1, 2010

Michael H. Curley, Council Member
Donald R. Helms, Council Member
William J. (Buddy) Fowler, Council Member

Colonel Jefferson M. Ryscavage, District Commander
Department of the Army
Wilmington District, Corps of Engineers
69 Darlington Avenue
Wilmington, NC 28403-1343

Dear Colonel Ryscavage:

On behalf of Surf City I would like to express and confirm our continued support of the proposed Surf City and North Topsail Beach Coastal Storm Damage Reduction Project. The feasibility study was authorized by two Transportation and Infrastructure Committee resolutions dated February 16, 2000 and April 11, 2000.

Surf City supports the selected National Economic Development Plan (NED) consisting 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 with a six-year re-nourishment cycle. The berm and dune project extends along a reach of 52,150 feet.

Further, we have been advised that the Initial Construction is $123,135,000, the first renourishment is $20,872,000, and each re-nourishment event from the 2nd to 8th cycle on a 6-year interval is $29,242,000. The estimated costs are based on October 2008 price levels and interest rate of 4.375 percent. The estimated operating and maintenance cost is approximately at $52,000 per year.

We understand the obligation of the local sponsors to cost share the initial construction at a rate of 65% Federal and 35% non-Federal and the obligation to cost share in the post construction renourishment costs at a rate of 50% federal and 50% non-Federal. We have been informed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that the sponsors will be required to provide public beach access at a minimum of one access point and associated parking every half mile of the proposed project or the Federal cost sharing percentages will be reduced.

With Warm Personal Regards I am

Sincerely yours,

A.D. (Zander) Guy, Jr.
Mayor

[Signature]
NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR’S
SELF-CERTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL CAPABILITY
FOR DECISION DOCUMENTS

I, J. Michael Moore, do hereby certify that I am the Chief Financial Officer for
the Town of Surf City, North Carolina; that I am aware of the financial obligations
of the Non-Federal Sponsor for the Surf City and North Topsail Beach Coastal
Storm Damage Reduction Project; and that the Non-Federal Sponsor will have
the financial capability to satisfy the Non-Federal Sponsor’s obligations for the
project. I understand that the Government’s acceptance of this self-
certification shall not be construed as obligating either the Government or the
Non-Federal Sponsor to implement a project.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have made and executed this certification this 9th day of
June, 2010.

BY: [Signature]

TITLE: Town Manager

DATE: June 9, 2010
June 4, 2010

Colonel Jefferson M. Ryscavage, District Commander
Department of the Army
Wilmington District, Corps of Engineers
69 Darlington Avenue
Wilmington, NC 28403-1343

Re: Assurance of Compliance to the Required Public Access and Parking Requirement for Surf City and North Topsail Beach Coastal Reduction Project.

Dear Colonel Ryscavage:

The Surf City Town Council recognizes the parking and public access requirements that are required under Sections 3.04 and 9.02 from the revised Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement. Further this is to verify our Board is committed to provide the required public parking and access as outlined in both sections. The Council further assures that the Town will acquire the property that will provide the required accesses and parking. The one area identified in the Feasibility Report (map attached), shown in red at approximately 1600 South Shore Drive is being worked on by the Town Attorney and will be designated as a Public Beach Access. The Attorney has actually identified 7 accesses between 1600 down to 2500 block of South Shore Drive that will be identified as public beach accesses. The Town is in the process of purchasing a lot at 2303 South Shore Drive and will be designated for public parking. We have identified other lots in the yellow area on the map and are negotiating with property owners in order to purchase and designate for public parking. We understand that the feasibility report states we need 37 additional public parking spots to meet the requirements and will continue to pursue until we can meet the requirements.

The Town understands that the Federal cost share of the project would be decreased if the Town does not comply with the parking and access requirements. The share would decrease from 65% to 51.3% for the initial construction and from 50% to 35% for subsequent maintenance renourishment.

Town Council would like to thank you for all the assistance you and your staff have provided with this most important project and should you have any additional request, please advise.

With Warm Personal Regards I am,
Sincerely yours,

A.D. (Zander) Guy, Jr.
Mayor
July 1, 2010

Colonel Jefferson M. Ryscavage, District Commander
Department of the Army
Wilmington District, Corps of Engineers
69 Darlington Ave.
Wilmington, NC 28403-1343

Regarding: Surf City and North Topsail Beach Coastal Storm Damage Reduction Project Letter of Support

Dear Colonel Ryscavage,

The purpose of this correspondence is to express and confirm our continued support of the proposed Surf City and North Topsail Beach Coastal Storm Damage Reduction Project. The feasibility study was authorized by two Transportation and Infrastructure Committee resolutions dated February 16, 2000 and April 11, 2000.

We support the selected National Economic Development Plan (NED) consisting 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 with a six-year re-nourishment cycle. The berm and dune project extends along a reach of 52,150 feet.

Further, we have been advised that the Initial Construction is $123,135,000, the first re-nourishment is $20,872,000, and each re-nourishment event from the 2nd to 8th cycle on a 6-year interval is $29,242,000. The estimated costs are based on October 2008 price levels and interest rate of 4.375 percent. The estimated operating and maintenance cost is approximately at $52,000 per year.

We understand the obligation of the local sponsors to cost share the initial construction at a rate of 65% Federal and 35% non-Federal and the obligation to cost share in the post construction re-nourishment costs at a rate of 50% Federal and 50% non-Federal. We have been informed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that the sponsors will be required to provide public beach access at a minimum of one access point and associated parking every half mile of the proposed project or the Federal cost sharing percentages will be reduced.

Sincerely,

Dan Tuman
Mayor
NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR'S
SELF-CERTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL CAPABILITY

I, Steven H. Foster, do hereby certify that I am the Town Manager of the Town of North Topsail Beach; that I am aware of the financial obligations of the Non-Federal Sponsor for the Town of North Topsail Beach renourishment project and that the Non-Federal Sponsor has the financial capability to satisfy the Non-Federal Sponsor's obligations under the Surf City and North Topsail Beach Storm Damage Reduction Project.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have made the executed this certification this 11th day of June, 2010.

BY: Steven H. Foster
TITLE: Town Manager
DATE: June 11, 2010
June 11, 2010

Colonel Jefferson M. Ryscavage
Department of the Army
Wilmington District, Corps of Engineers
69 Darlington Ave.
Wilmington, NC 28403

Regarding: Surf City and North Topsail Beach Coastal Reduction Project- North Topsail Beach
Board of Aldermen Assurance of Compliance to the Required Public Access and Parking Requirement

Dear Colonel Ryscavage,

The purpose of this letter is to state that the Board of Aldermen recognizes the parking and public access requirement that is required under Sections 3.04 and 9.02 from the revised Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement. Further this is to verify the Board is committed to provide the required parking and access as outlined in those sections. The Board further assures that the Town will acquire the property that will provide an additional 20 parking spaces, and an additional access way. (Please find attached a map that will indicate those areas)

The Town understands that the Federal cost share of the project would be decreased if the Town does not comply with the parking and access requirements. That share would decrease from 65% to 51.3% for initial construction and from 50% to 39% for subsequent maintenance renourishment.

Thank you for all of the assistance that you and your staff have provided in this project, and should you have any additional request, please advise.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Mayor Dan Tuman

Enclosure
December 13, 2010

Colonel Jefferson M. Ryscavage, District Commander
Department of the Army
Wilmington District, Corps of Engineers
PO Box 1890
Wilmington, NC 28402-1890

Dear Colonel Ryscavage:

The purpose of this correspondence is to express our continued support of the proposed Surf City and North Topsail Beach Coastal Storm Damage Reduction Project.

The North Carolina General Assembly has previously authorized the Division of Water Resources to use water resource capital improvement funds for the project study to the extent state funds became available. The Division of Water Resources understands that the selected National Economic Development Plan (NED) 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 with a six-year re-nourishment cycle. The berm and dune project extends along a reach of 52,150 feet.

We have been advised that the Initial Construction cost is $127,973,000, and the total cost for the 7 planned renourishments is $215,525,000. The estimated costs are based on October 2010 price levels and an interest rate of 4.375 percent. The estimated operating and maintenance cost is approximately at $52,000 per year.

We understand the obligation of the local sponsors to cost share the initial construction at a rate of 65% Federal and 35% non-Federal and the obligation to cost share in the post construction re-nourishment costs at a rate of 50% Federal and 50% non-Federal. The State will assist in the financial support of this Project based on availability of state funds and continued authorization by the North Carolina General Assembly. Furthermore, this expression of potential financial support should not be construed as any form of regulatory approval of this project. The execution of this project is still subject to all State regulations and applicable permitting decisions and requirements.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Reeder