



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
New York District

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Corps sets meeting on Fire Island plan

Interested citizens can learn about a proposal to temporarily strengthen the beach and dunes at Fire Island during a public session Jan. 12.

The session will be held from 3 to 10 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom of Fortunoff Hall, Dowling College, Oakdale, Long Island.

Engineers and scientists from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District, will be on hand to explain the proposal. The Corps developed the plan in cooperation with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the non-federal sponsor for the project. Fire Island National Seashore and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are cooperating agencies.

The proposal would place sand on the beaches of the Fire Island Barrier Island -- including Robert Moses State Park, Fire Island National Seashore, and Smith Point County Park -- to maintain them for six years. At that time, a report on the Reformulation Study for Fire Island Inlet to Montauk Point should be completed, and the report would recommend long-term protection measures. The Fire Island work is being proposed as an interim action to reduce the potential for storm damages until the Reformulation Study is finished, and the results potentially implemented.

To maintain the Fire Island beaches for six years, the project would include one initial beach fill and dune construction, with renourishment once. The plan calls for placing sand on selected areas of Fire Island's Atlantic beaches and dunes to strengthen the natural protective features of the island for about 11.3 miles of the 31-mile Fire Island coastline. The sand would come from a source offshore of Fire Island in water between 30 feet and 60 feet deep.

The interim project is designed to reduce storm-related flooding along Great South Bay from storms that would wash over the barrier island, and would also reduce storm damage along the oceanfront.

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The proposal is outlined in the Draft Decision Document, including the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Fire Island Inlet to Moriches Inlet Reach Interim Plan for Storm Damage Reduction. The draft Decision Document, available for public review, provides the technical documentation prepared to evaluate the feasibility of the interim project.

Copies of the document can be reviewed in the Suffolk Cooperative Library System, 627 Sunrise Service Rd., Bellport, N.Y. (Diane Eidelman, 516 286-1600); New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Public Affairs and Education, Building 40, State University of New York, Stony Brook, N.Y. (Mark Lowery, 516 444-0350); West Islip Public Library, 3 Higbie Lane, West Islip, N.Y. (Darline Carter, 516 661-7080), and the Science, Industry and Business Library, 188 Madison Ave at 34th St., New York City (John Ganly, 212 592-7261).