

June 29, 2017

Mayor Becker, Sir,

As we discussed on the phone, here are some talking points explaining the situation regarding the current situation we are in for the beach fill project on Absecon Island.

- * The RN WEEKS, which is one of two hopper dredges scheduled to work in Ventnor, Margate and Longport on Absecon Island, now requires mandatory maintenance beginning June 30th and will be unable to work for between 45 and 60 days.

- * This change, coupled with delays on a project in Florida (which delayed the arrival of the hopper dredges to the Absecon Island project) and several significant weather-related delays, have rendered the previous project schedule unachievable.

- * As a result, in order to accomplish the project on schedule, Weeks Marine Inc. will now use the pipeline dredge RS WEEKS (currently working in Atlantic City) to complete beachfill operations in all of Atlantic City and Ventnor City. Work in Ventnor is likely to start in late August/early September after the pipeline dredge completes work in Atlantic City.

- * The hopper dredge BE LINDHOLM will continue to work at the current pipe landing site at Fredericksburg Avenue in Ventnor to establish a significant pad area for operations through July 5th. Once complete, beach fill operations will then progress south from the pipe landing into Margate to construct the protective beach and dune throughout Margate and then continue south into Longport to complete the remaining work on the contract. This means work would start approximately one week earlier in Margate from the previously estimated July 13th start. Work will continue south through Margate for approximately 2 months.

- * As always, the construction schedule is an estimate subject to change based on the availability of the dredges slated to complete the work; weather; mechanical issues and other factors.

Sir, I've included some of my team members, Keith Watson and Steve Rochette, as POCs to answer further questions.

I am available as well to assist in messaging and answering questions if you need it.

Thank you,
LTC Mike Bliss

Michael A. Bliss (Mike)
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army
Commander, Philadelphia District, US Army Corps of Engineers