



US Army Corps of Engineers

Norfolk District

News Release

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Virginia Beach Hurricane Project: **It Worked!**

The Virginia Beach Erosion Control and Hurricane Protection Project was tested for the first time since its completion in 2000 by Hurricane Isabel and performed exactly as it was designed, Corps officials said Monday.

According to early estimates, **approximately \$82 million in damages were prevented**. The project, which included a seawall from Rudee Inlet to 58th St.; pumping stations at 16th and 42nd streets; a widened beach berm from Rudee Inlet to 89th St.; and an enhanced dune system from 58th to 89th Sts., cost \$120 million.

Prevented damages include:

- \$52 million to residential property;
- \$15 million to commercial interests; and
- \$15 million to infrastructure such as roads, sewer, power and water lines, as well as the boardwalk.

City of Virginia Beach Coastal Engineer Phill Roehrs stated, "During the worst hour of the storm the beach was only awash in four to six inches of water. During this period half a dozen waves of less than a foot in height kissed the seawall, sending less than one inch of water across the boardwalk and into the

storm drains. It appears that none of the oceanfront hotels took water on the first floor from these waves.”

Virginia Beach Mayor Meyera Oberndorf told Norfolk District Commander Col. Yvonne J. Prettyman-Beck on Friday, “The seawall saved so many homes and businesses in Virginia Beach. I want to express my sincere thanks for the Corps of Engineers’ work and the federal support from our U.S. Senator John Warner, former Congressman Owen B. Pickett and current Congressman Edward Schrock.”

During a helicopter overflight Monday afternoon with Brigadier General Merdith W.B. (Bo) Temple, Corps North Atlantic Division Commander, Col Yvonne J. Prettyman-Beck, Commander of the Corps’ Norfolk District, surveyed key areas of Virginia, Maryland and D.C. that sustained damage during the storm, including the Virginia Beach Oceanfront.

“Our whole team here at the Norfolk District is extremely pleased at how the project performed,” stated Col. Prettyman. “Working closely with the city we incorporated their needs in the seawall and boardwalk and provided the level of protection necessary for a federal project. It passed all the tests!”

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