



# NEWS RELEASE

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

**BUILDING STRONG.**

For Immediate Release:  
July 12, 2010

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## **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers determines Emergency Permit request by Dauphin Island to construct Dune and Beach Barrier System does not qualify**

Mobile, Ala. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District determined today the emergency permit request from the Town of Dauphin Island, Ala. to dredge four million cubic yards of material to build a protective beach and dune system on the island's southern shore does not qualify under the emergency permit procedures established to address impacts from the oil spill in the Gulf.

"We have reviewed this request very carefully," Public Affairs Officer E. Patrick Robbins said. "However, based on the comments received from Federal and State agencies, the Corps has determined this project is outside the guidelines for an emergency permit action due to its scope and long term effect."

Emergency permits are designed to rapidly review and analyze requests to construct emergency measures to prevent loss to life and property. Mobile District received permission to use the emergency permit action following the Deepwater Drilling Incident. To date the district has issued 20 permits for activities to directly address the impacts of the oil spill.

"The request by the Town of Dauphin Island was to basically rebuild the entire south shoreline with a 500 to 600 foot wide new beach with a protective berm behind it. The stated purpose was to prevent oily water from storm surges created by tropical storms or minor hurricanes from over washing the island," said Robbins. "A multipurpose project of this scope with possible long term effects on the environment needs to be addressed through normal, not emergency, permitting processes. We are certainly willing to proceed with the Town of Dauphin Island through the normal process."

"We have suggested to the Town of Dauphin Island that they look at a less extensive measure such as tying in the current dune system they have constructed with the island's natural dunes and building protective dunes on the low lying areas on the east end," said Robbins. "We believe this would more directly address the oil spill issues which could be caused by a tropical storm or minor hurricane."

The Corps' mission through the emergency permit process is to ensure projects don't have significant environmental impacts after the emergency is over, but at the same time ensure communities and states are able to do what is immediately necessary to address the crisis.

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – MOBILE DISTRICT**

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