US Army Corps of Engineers®

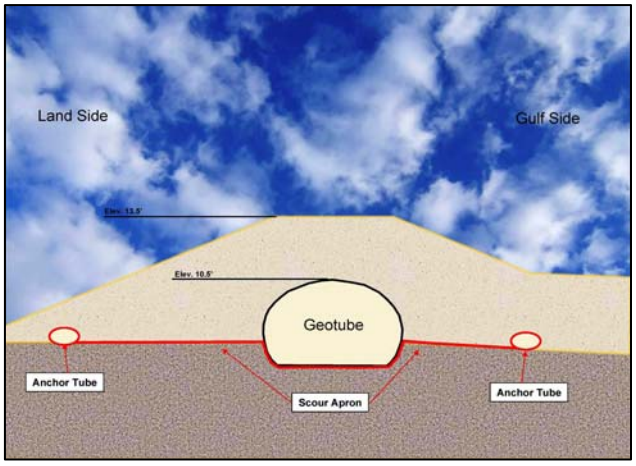
PROJECT FACT SHEET

Grand Isle and Vicinity Hurricane Protection Project

PURPOSE: The Grand Isle and Vicinity Hurricane Protection Project consists of a 7.5 mile vegetated sand dune extending the length of Grand Isle's gulf shore, a jetty to stabilize the western end of the island at Caminada Pass, and an offshore breakwater system.

STATUS: Prior to Hurricane Gustav impacting the island, there was an on-going construction project to repair damages caused by Hurricane Katrina to the Federal dune project. This construction effort was about 95% complete when Hurricane Gustav struck. The completed work consisted of 8,000 linear feet of dune, all break water repairs, all jetty repairs, and several of the pedestrian cross walks were repaired. Much of this effort, along with the east and west end of the Federal dune project, was destroyed by Hurricane Gustav. Hurricane Gustav caused numerous breaches throughout the portion of the Federal dune that was not destroyed.

A large portion of the 2008 hurricane season remained, and with the approach of hurricane Ike, an emergency flood fighting effort was initiated. The flood fighting effort consisted of filling the breaches in the dune with large sand bags and constructing a "burrito" core on the western 8,000 linear feet of the island. The plan was to concentrate the emergency flood fight efforts on the residential areas of the island. This effort started on September 2, 2008, and continued through September 10, 2008, at which time all personnel were forced to evacuate due to Hurricane Ike. In this time frame, all the breaches were closed with sand bags and about 1,000 feet of the "burrito" core was installed.

The majority of the dune at Grand Isle will be reconstructed with a geotextile tube core and sand cap. The geotextile tube core will be 31,000 feet, or about 5.7 miles. The tubes will be filled with material from excavation of the existing dune. The Corps has installed ~7620 feet of geotextile wrapped clay to an elevation near 9 feet. The geotextile tube will overlap the ends of this clay structure on the gulf side by approximately 50 feet. The tubes are coated with a spray-on coating for UV resistance as well as abrasion resistance. Twenty locations have been designated for pedestrian crossings along with six emergency vehicle access sites. The tubes and existing clay structure will be capped with sand and parts of the beach will be nourished. This material will come from a designated offshore borrow site. The total volume of material to be dredged is approximately 1 million cubic yards (CY) of sandy material. All dune construction will be planted with the appropriate dune vegetation.

The construction contract was awarded to Weeks Marine in the amount of $25 million. Notice to Proceed was issued to the contractor on April 15, 2009, and construction began on May 15, 2009. The construction of geotextile tubes is scheduled to be complete in August.