

Surfer-group forum to look at options for beach repair

By TRISTAN SCHWEIGER Staff Writer, (609) 978-2015

Press of Atlantic City

Published: Friday, March 31, 2006

Updated: Friday, March 31, 2006

A national nonprofit environmental group will hold a forum in Ship Bottom next month to discuss alternatives to the planned Long Beach Island beach-replenishment project.

The Surfrider Foundation's Jersey Shore Chapter will bring Greg Rudolph, a coastal geologist and shore protection manager for a North Carolina county, to the Quarterdeck Inn at 5 p.m. on April 8. Rudolph will discuss beach replenishment issues and talk about different ways of protecting beaches.

The foundation's members have been vocal critics of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' plan for Long Beach Island, which they contend would destroy surfing conditions and harm other recreation on the island as well.

The group maintains it does not oppose beach replenishment in principle. But members argue the government's plan would result in a sheer drop-off at the water's edge by extending the beach out significantly beyond its current limits.

The Surfrider Foundation suggests a plan that would engineer the beach in such a way as to continually funnel new sand towards the shore in a process that would constantly replenish the beach.

"We need to look outside the boundaries of the state lines and look at what other people have done that have enhanced life at the beach, not crushed it," said Bob Duerr, the Jersey Shore Chapter's co-chairman.

Past beach replenishment projects, like one in Monmouth County, have created conditions similar to those the group fears will happen on LBI, according to Duerr. But he said other states, like North Carolina, have beach replenishment programs that don't harm activities like swimming and surfing.