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Army Corps will be asked to expedite beach cleanup

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New Jersey's U.S. senators will ask the Army Corps of Engineers to try to expedite the cleanup of Surf City beaches where a sand-replenishment project has dragged ashore potentially explosive, World War II military fuses, state Sen. Leonard Connors said Friday.

"I am for it, to have the beaches open a week before Memorial Day," said Connors, who is also mayor of Surf City.

In the first week of March, the Army Corps had shut down the project after bomb fuses turned up amid the sandy clamshells, crab claws, seaweed and other ocean-bottom detritus used for fill on Surf City's strand, located north of the causeway to Long Beach Island in Ocean County.

A beachcomber with a metal detector found the first fuse, believed to have come from sand sucked from the seabed about three miles offshore in the \$71-million project. Other discoveries of the fuses followed. None so far has exploded.

Connors said the beaches of late had been under guard to keep people away.

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[iPublished]: March 24, 2007 3:10AM