

Outer Banks storm pipes to get filters

THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

A Raleigh engineering firm plans to install filters on some of the pipes along Outer Banks beaches that flush storm water into the ocean.

The work is part of a project that ultimately aims to clean up runoff water from the ocean outfalls. Contamination from runoff has led to beach closures in the past.

The filters would be put in place in May or June, and will be tested to see if and how well they work, Johnny Martin, a coastal and hydraulic

engineer with Moffatt & Nichol, said during a project update at Jockey's Ridge State Park in Nags Head last week.

Moffatt & Nichol's work is part of a two-part project being paid for by the state Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Over the next two years, the University of North Carolina Coastal Studies Institute in Manteo and UNC-Chapel Hill will work to find out what pollutants are in the water, where they are coming from, and when concentrations are highest.

Last month, the institute took the first round of water samples from the nine outfalls being studied, said research technician Corey Adams.

SOLUTION?

A filter is a short-term solution and works best on outfalls with "low flow." The firm will continue to look at long-term solutions.