



# BAYPORT REPORT

PORT OF HOUSTON AUTHORITY

FALL 2007

## PHA, Bayport Industrial District Take Security Seriously

The Port of Houston Authority takes security at its facilities seriously.

Since September 11, 2001, ports around the country have taken measures to better ensure safety and security. The Port of Houston Authority Police Department is responsible for safety and security within the confines of its facilities, including the Bayport Container and Cruise Terminal. Russell Whitmarsh is PHA chief of police.

While the port authority is responsible for security within its facilities, the U.S. Coast Guard is responsible for securing the waterways and portwide air space. The



two agencies work in concert with U.S. Customs and Border Protection, as well as local and state law enforcement agencies to secure Bayport.

While specific security strategies can't be revealed, these agencies do take a layered approach to securing the port

and an integrated approach toward addressing any security breaches or threats. Security response to threats varies in range based on the issue. The U. S. Coast Guard is the federal law enforcement agency that takes the lead on major incidents.

Truckers who deliver to the Bayport facility are required to adhere to certain

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## Pilot Program to Seek Sound Solutions

The Port of Houston Authority has contracted with the W.D. Schock Company, Inc., to implement a pilot program in which as many as 12 homes will be tested to evaluate possible treatment measures to mitigate the sound impact of operations at the Bayport Terminal.

The scope of services consists of evaluating the existing sound levels in the neighborhood north of the Bayport Container and Cruise Complex to establish a baseline or threshold level of sound that may require mitigation. This will be accomplished by performing sound testing inside and outside of five homes in the cities of La Porte and Shoreacres. These five residences will be determined by three factors: age of home, type of structure and proximity to the facility.

The mayors of these two cities have selected and secured a pool of 22 homeowners, who have volunteered to participate in the program. The port authority is committed to working with 12 homes in the pilot program, using the same criteria that determined the five homes in the baseline study. The acoustical testing is intended to provide a representative sampling of the

sound levels currently being projected in the homes. The results of the testing will be used to develop sound mitigation measures that could be implemented to reduce sound levels in the homes.

The port authority, in conjunction with the mayors, will assess and evaluate the results. Whatever the outcome, homeowners will be assured that they will not have to give up their rights to further remediation benefits.

The W. D. Schock Company, Inc. was founded in 1986 to provide professional management consulting services to the aviation industry. During more than 20 years, the company has provided program management services for successful sound mitigation of thousands of homes across the United States. In addition to working with airports, the company also provides similar services to municipalities, state departments of transportation, redevelopment agencies, and private industry. The company headquarters is in Nashville, Tenn., with executive offices in five other locations across the nation.

Dear Neighbor:

A key element in the successful operation of the Bayport Container Terminal is the ability to balance community responsibility and economic viability. The Port of Houston Authority has taken active steps, such as working with current contractors to better mitigate sound around their operations, as well as including language in upcoming contracts that requires putting limits on sound and other environmental concerns associated with construction. Several upcoming projects are gaining the PHA's full support.



#### **Homeowner Sound Insulation Pilot Project**

PHA is working with a sound insulation analysis specialist to help design a pilot project to better lessen sound concerns of local residents. This program originates from elected officials and community leaders' meetings with the PHA. From working with the mayors representing the local communities, the Homeowner Sound Insulation Pilot Project is now under way. While many airports have had similar projects, the Bayport Project is the first port-related sound insulation program of its type.

#### **Community, Economic and Environmental Enhancement**

Dedicated to the continued economic growth of the region while maintaining environmental stewardship, the PHA is working on several projects to better enhance the Bayport community. More than 50 private and public companies in the Houston Ship Channel participated in the first Port of Houston-wide Job Fair on Oct. 11 to promote more than 1,000 open positions. More than 2,300 job seekers participated. The PHA collaborated with The WorkSource, the West Gulf Maritime Association, San Jacinto College and the Economic Alliance Houston Port Region for the event.

On the environmental side, the PHA is working with University of Houston–Clear Lake, the Environmental Institute of Houston, the Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority, Seabrook Association, city of Pasadena and other local municipalities to build a Household Hazardous Waste collection facility on PHA property within the Bayport area. This facility would serve more than 113,000 local households.

#### **Infrastructure Improvement Projects**

In conjunction with the city of Pasadena, the PHA built a water tower. This tower will provide water to the Bayport project while improving water pressure to the local community. PHA is committed to ongoing infrastructure improvements, including the Port Road project. To date, PHA has improved the condition of Port Road substantially. There are future plans for further expansion and improvement to this road.

We will continue to update the community about these projects, programs and other features of the Bayport Container and Cruise Terminal in future additions of the newsletter. Postcards on construction updates will be mailed to local community members as needed. If you have any questions or comments about Bayport, please call the information line at 713.670.1000.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roger Guenther". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Roger Guenther  
General Manager, Container Terminals  
Port of Houston Authority



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security regulations. These include identification checks, screening requirements and monitoring.

The Port of Houston Authority's Police Department and the private security staff at the Bayport terminal is well-staffed and continually updating training, procedures and practices.

The Port of Houston Authority Police Department interacts with all local cities through the local LEPS, Houston TranStar and by direct contact. The Port of Houston Authority Police Department recently added a web-based communications system that will greatly enhance the port authority's ability to more quickly provide timely information to various entities, including local cities.

## Galveston Bay Foundation to Help Find Solutions to Siltation at Pine Gully

The Port of Houston Authority and the city of Seabrook are working with the Galveston Bay Foundation to find possible solutions to siltation that has occurred recently in Pine Gully. Residents in Seabrook have been concerned about that siltation, with some attributing it to the construction at Bayport. When both the city's and the port's experts could not agree on the cause of the siltation, a decision was made to work with the Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF) to find a solution.

The first phase of the effort cost \$23,000 and was jointly funded by the port authority and the city. In the first phase, GBF, acting as a neutral third party, hired the engineering firm of Moffatt & Nichol to review data and information already collected by both the PHA and the city of Seabrook. GBF President Bob Stokes, along with Larry Wise of Moffatt & Nichol, met with both entities and their experts to review their studies of Pine Gully. Additionally, GBF held an initial public meeting open to all citizens to get input regarding the issues impacting Pine Gully and their vision of the future of Pine Gully. Finally, GBF met with the local citizens who live directly adjacent to Pine Gully to seek further input.

GBF and Moffatt & Nichol are now finalizing a report and an alternatives analysis for a recommended alternative for restoration work in Pine Gully. The draft recommended alternative proposals to restore Pine Gully by scraping and removing sand that has built up in the gully and impacted some of the previously existing marsh in the area. GBF will then use volunteers to plant new marsh grass, which will quickly grow and populate the area. The conditions that caused this buildup appear to have dissipated and the expectation is that once the excess sediment is removed, Pine Gully will remain a small tidal estuary and avoid future buildup of sediment.

The Port of Houston Authority and the city of Seabrook are currently considering a proposal from GBF and Moffat & Nichol that provides for engineering, final design, permitting and construction for this project. Pending approval of the project, GBF will begin construction in late spring or early summer 2008.



*These photos depict the siltation problem at Pine Gully before the spring and summer rains flushed the silt into Galveston Bay.*



**Contact:**  
**Bob Stokes, 281.332.3381 x211**

*These photos taken in October, show a naturally restored Pine Gully.*

## Good Neighbor Hotline: 713.670.1000

The Bayport Terminal Construction Project includes a Telephone Information Line designed to allow residents of adjacent communities and businesses to obtain information or to comment on the construction and operation of the terminal.

If you have a question, comment, or concern, please leave a message and your call will be responded to in a timely manner. Every effort will be made to get in touch with the appropriate contact at Bayport who can provide the caller with complete details surrounding each inquiry.



## Come See Bayport:

Would you or your organization like to take a tour of the Bayport Container and Cruise Terminals or have someone from the Port of Houston Authority address your organization?

Please contact Shar Lynch at 713.670.2831 to schedule a tour or a speaker.

Tours are scheduled for Thursdays and Fridays from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

## SupPORTers Volunteer

Port of Houston Authority employees, family and friends enjoy volunteering in the Bayport community. In September, the PHA fire and police departments spent the day at the LaPorte Safety Fair, educating citizens on the roles they play at the Bayport terminal. Several SupPORTers and their families also volunteered at the LaPorte Fall Back Festival and in October, the Bayfest in El Jardin. Last year, port authority employees volunteered more than 800 hours to communities near the Port of Houston. PHA places a high priority on volunteerism, which helps its employees learn about the communities they work in, while communities learn more about the people behind the port.



## The Port of Houston Delivers a Good Neighbor Plan



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