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### **PORT WILL APPEAL SHIP CHANNEL PIPELINES DECISION**

HOUSTON, February 19, 2002 – The Port of Houston Authority Commissioners voted today to appeal the U.S. District Court’s January 25<sup>th</sup> ruling that the Port should pay for the removal and relocation of pipelines to accommodate the widening and deepening of the Houston Ship Channel.

“We believe Congress clearly specified in 1996 that pipeline owners, not the taxpayers of Harris County, should pay for the removal and relocation of pipelines needed to widen and deepen the Ship Channel,” said Port Chairman James T. Edmonds. “The companies operating terminals along the Ship Channel are the primary beneficiaries of these Ship Channel improvements, and we believe – with Congress and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – that these companies, and not the public, should pay for the pipelines removal.”

#### The Port of Houston Authority

The Port of Houston Authority owns and operates the public facilities along the Port of Houston, a 25-mile-long complex of diversified public and private facilities that handle more than 175 million short tons of freight worth more than \$60 billion annually. The Port Authority plays a vital role in ensuring navigation safety along the Houston Ship Channel, a key economic catalyst for the city since the Port of Houston first opened to deep-water vessels in 1914. The Port is the source of more than 200,000 direct and related jobs and generates about \$525 million annually in state and local taxes. The Port of Houston ranks first in the U.S. in foreign waterborne commerce and second in total tonnage. Each year, more than 7,000 vessels from around the world call at the Port.

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