



**For Immediate Release**

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**PORT AUTHORITY ISSUES UPDATES ON BAYPORT MATTERS**

*U.S. Army Corps of Engineers extends Bayport FEIS decision deadline*

HOUSTON, August 23, 2002 – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has delayed its decision on the Final Environmental Impact Study (FEIS) for the Bayport facility until March 17, 2003. Port of Houston Authority commissioners respectfully welcomed the decision, as recently posted on the corps' website ([www.swg.usace.army.mil/reg/pha/default.asp](http://www.swg.usace.army.mil/reg/pha/default.asp)) as a way to ensure that all comments of public concern about the proposed project are addressed and considered in the final draft of the FEIS.

"We are in support of the corps' desire to work through all of the outstanding issues," stated James T. Edmonds, Chairman, Port of Houston Authority Commission. "It is essential to have a deliberative process for this proposed project," Edmonds added.

In a related matter listed on the agenda for the Port of Houston Authority Commissioners' meeting scheduled for Monday, August 26, the commissioners will consider a change order in the amount of \$1.5 million to extend the contract for the URS Corporation. URS will continue to refine and review the database of public comments, develop the response strategy, develop the FEIS technical section, provide production of the FEIS and provide support for the development of the record of the decision by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

“ This is an adjustment that was anticipated from the beginning of this three-phase project,” stated H. Thomas Kornegay, Executive Director of the Port of Houston Authority. “ We are committed to cooperating in every way possible to aid the corps in completing its FEIS,” Kornegay added.

The port commissioners also have been informed that a recommendation has been made by Harris County that the sale of a portion of bonds related to the Bayport project should be delayed until early 2003. The recommendation was proposed by Richard Raycraft, Harris County’s director of management services and budget. Raycraft, as directed by the Harris County commissioners court, will continue to work with port authority staff concerning the timing of a 2003 sale.

“We gratefully acknowledge and respect Dick’s financial guidance,” stated Edmonds. “In light of the corps’ recent decision to delay the FEIS, this makes sound financial sense for Harris County taxpayers,” Edmonds added.

Pending the approvals for Bayport, the Port of Houston Authority is committed to meeting ISO 14001 standards upon the completion and opening of the facility. The Port of Houston Authority recently became the first U.S. port to achieve compliance with ISO 14001 standards for its environmental management systems (EMS) at Barbours Cut Container Terminal and the Central Maintenance Facility.

### **The Port of Houston Authority**

*The Port of Houston Authority owns and operates the public facilities located along the Port of Houston, a 25-mile long complex of diversified public and private facilities designed for handling general cargo, containers, grain, other dry bulk materials, project and heavy lift cargo and other types of cargo. The Port of Houston Authority plays a vital role in ensuring navigation safety along the Houston Ship Channel, which has been instrumental in Houston’s development as a center of international trade. The port -- sixth largest in the world -- is ranked first in the United States 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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