



For Immediate Release
June 24, 2003

CONTACT:
Felicia Griffin
Communications Manager
Office: (713) 670-2644 Cell: (713) 594-5620
fgriffin@poha.com

Argentina M. James
Director of Public Affairs
Office: (713) 670-2568 Cell: (713) 306-6822
ajames@poha.com

PORT AUTHORITY COMMISSION DELIVERS CONTRACT FOR CRANES

Guest speakers deliver commendations for security, support of SPARK Parks

HOUSTON – The Port of Houston Authority (PHA) Commission approved several recommendations involving contract awards, bids and proposals, professional services and general administrative and operational matters during its monthly meeting on Monday, June 23. Chairman Jim Edmonds presided over the meeting in the board room at the PHA Executive Office Building, located at 111 East Loop North.

Container Yard Cranes

The commissioners approved a recommendation to award a contract to Konecranes VLC Corporation in the estimated amount of \$7.4 million for five diesel electric container yard cranes for Barbours Cut and the proposed Bayport Container and Cruise Terminal. Konecranes was among five firms that submitted proposals.

Pipeline Matters

The commissioners approved a recommendation to partially transfer and assign a PHA pipeline license from Chevron U.S.A., Inc. to Dynegy Midstream Services, L.P. The transfer covers four eight-inch pipelines located below and across the Houston Ship Channel.

Emergency Command Center

The commissioners pulled from the agenda a recommendation to obtain approval of plans and specifications and authority to advertise and receive competitive sealed proposals (CSPs) for the PHA emergency command center. The recommendation is expected to be considered during the next commission meeting scheduled for July 28.

The cost for the command center is expected to range between \$1.8 million and \$3 million. Under terms of a contract previously awarded, Black and Veatch completed the plans and specifications for renovating and strengthening the existing building and installing an integrated communications and monitoring station and dispatch center for the PHA Police Department. This project is expected to be funded by a \$1.5 million federal port security grant.

Bayport Matters

The commissioners also pulled from the agenda a recommendation related to an inter-governmental agreement with the City of Shoreacres for the provision of security services at Bayport. The recommendation is expected to be considered during the next commission meeting scheduled for July 28.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers released its final environmental impact statement (FEIS) on the proposed Bayport project on May 16. The public comment period on the FEIS is scheduled to close on July 16. The USACE will consider public comments on the FEIS in the finalization of its Record of Decision (ROD), which is expected in late August. The ROD will authorize one of three actions related to a construction permit for Bayport: 1) issuance of the permit, 2) issuance of the permit with modifications or conditions, or 3) denial of the permit. The USACE's permit decision is expected to be announced in September.

U.S. Coast Guard Commendation

Capt. Kevin Cook of the U.S. Coast Guard presented certificates of commendation to PHA Marine Department fireboat crew members recognizing their dedicated service in support of USCG security patrols along the port.

SPARK Park Commendation

Eleanor Tinsley, founder of the SPARK Parks program and former Houston City Council member, presented a commendation recognizing the PHA's support for a SPARK park at Davila Elementary School. The park's playground design includes ships and other elements that reflect a nautical theme. Tinsley was joined by James Troutman, Principal of Davila Elementary School and Marcus Shepherd, HISD liaison.

###

About the Port of Houston Authority

The Port of Houston Authority owns and operates the public facilities located along the Port of Houston, the 25-mile long complex of diversified public and private facilities designed for handling general cargo, containers, grain and other dry bulk materials, project and heavy lift cargo, and other types of cargo. Each year, more than 6,600 vessels call at the port, which ranks first in the U.S. in foreign waterborne tonnage, second in overall total tonnage, and sixth largest in the world. The Port Authority plays a vital role in ensuring navigational safety along the Houston Ship Channel, which has been instrumental in Houston's development as a center of international trade. The Barbours Cut Container Terminal and Central Maintenance Facility are the first of any U.S. port facilities to develop and implement an innovative Environmental Management System that meets the rigorous standards of ISO 14001. Additionally, the port is an approved delivery point for Coffee "C" futures contracts traded on the New York Board of Trade's Coffee, Sugar & Cocoa Exchange. For more information, please visit www.portofhouston.com