

# THE PORT REPORT



PORT OF HOUSTON AUTHORITY

MARCH 2008

## EPA Announces New Diesel Emission Rule



U.S. EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson; Ed Hamberger, president, Association of American Railroads; Richard Greene, regional administrator, U.S. EPA; and Charlie Jenkins, PHA director of planning & environment.

At a March 14 press conference at the Port of Houston Authority's Sam Houston Pavilion, EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson announced new diesel emission standards for the nation, requiring new and existing locomotive and marine diesel engines to significantly reduce air pollution. Charlie Jenkins, PHA director of planning & environment, gave welcoming remarks on behalf of the port authority, which was selected as the host site because of its outstanding record of environmental achievement.

"Today, EPA is fitting another important piece into the clean diesel puzzle by cleaning emissions from our trains and boats," said Johnson. "As more and more goods flow through our ports and railways, EPA is cutting diesel emissions at their source – keeping our nation on track toward a clean, healthy, productive tomorrow."

PHA is a member of the EPA's National Environmental Performance Track and the Blue Skyways Collaborative, which is dedicated to reducing diesel fuel emissions, and was the first port to implement an Environmental Management System that meets the rigorous parameters of the ISO 14001 standards.

## Nigeria's First Lady Visits PHA

The Port of Houston Authority played host to Her Excellency, Hajiya Turai Umar Yar'Adua, First Lady of the Republic of Nigeria in a March 19 visit that included a briefing on the Port of Houston and a tour of the Houston Ship Channel aboard the *M/V Sam Houston*.

Nigeria ranks as the sixth leading import/export trading partner for the port authority with a varied portfolio of trading commodities, including oil and mineral fuels, cereals, plastics, machinery and motor vehicles.



Her Excellency, Hajiya Turai Umar Yar'Adua, and PHA Commissioner Kase Lawal.

## Animated Clean & Green Ads Encourage Houstonians to Keep Bayou Clean



PHA Chairman James T. Edmonds, PHA Commissioner Elyse Lanier and former Houston Mayor Bob Lanier.

The next phase of the Clean & Green Port of Houston Program has been launched with a new multi-faceted advertising campaign promoting the environmental initiative. The kick-off took place at a reception in February hosted by PHA Commissioner Elyse Lanier and former Houston Mayor Bob Lanier.

Harris County Criminal Court judges and other supporters of the program previewed the new TV ads and promotional items, including a coloring book for area schools. The campaign educates Houstonians about the connection between litter on the streets and in our bayous and bay.

The animated television ads, which began airing this month, feature the "Clean & Green Critter Club," fanciful characters based on the real creatures that live in Houston's bayous and waterways. PHA, the Buffalo Bayou Partnership and corporate partner Shell Oil Company formally launched the Clean & Green Port of Houston program in September.

# February Port Commission Highlights

At its February 19 meeting, the Port Commission of the Port of Houston Authority:

- Approved a PHA staff recommendation to authorize amendment/extension of a contract with Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam Inc. for program management services to the Bayport Terminal Complex, Phase I program. This year's contract is proposed not to exceed \$4.8 million.
- Approved the advertising and receipt of competitive sealed proposals for access control, closed-circuit television and fiber optics network controls at PHA's Executive Office Building and the Port Coordination Center. The project – partially funded through federal security grants – is estimated to cost between \$615,000 and \$715,000.
- Approved monthly lease agreements with VPSI Inc. to lease vans under the METROVan program for up to six months, beginning on March 1, 2008. This action will fully implement PHA employee vanpools under a program co-sponsored by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority of Harris County (METRO) and the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC). Current lease payments total about \$5,000 per month, with PHA employees being responsible for all fuel and toll costs. Five vanpools currently operate under the program.
- Authorized advertising and receipt of proposals for disaster recovery "hot-site" services for PHA over a three-year coverage period beginning May 1, 2008. The service provides PHA with business continuity services, allowing for computer hardware and facilities to re-establish business services in the event of a disaster.



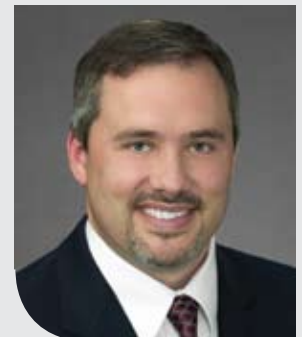
PHA Commissioners Janiece Longoria and James W. Fonteno, Jr.

## New Government Relations Manager Joins PHA

Spencer Chambers, former legislative aide to U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, has joined the Port of Houston Authority as government relations department manager. In this position, Chambers is responsible for managing the PHA's aggressive government relations program that includes local, state and federal legislation and administrative duties associated with the day-to-day management of the department.

Chambers worked with Cornyn at the federal and state levels, as an assistant when Cornyn was Texas attorney general. He also brings state legislative aide experience as a former assistant to state Rep. Tony Goolsby.

Chambers will be joined by recently hired assistant government relations manager Monica R. Glover.



PHA Government Relations Manager Spencer Chambers.

## Donors Give Life-saving Blood in 1st Drive of 2008



The first of four Port of Houston Authority blood drives was held on March 18 at PHA's Executive Building and the Barbours Cut/Bayport terminals. A total of 50 units of blood was collected. According to Gulf Coast Blood Center officials, one unit of blood can save up to three lives, which means nearly 150 lives could potentially be saved by the latest PHA blood donations.

Donors at the Executive Office Building gave 31 units of blood and included five first-timers, while BCT/Bayport donors contributed 19 units to the Houston Blood Bank, with

three first-timers. The port authority has set a goal of 225 units to be collected and donated to the Gulf Coast Blood Center this year. The summer blood drive is scheduled for June 17.

## CLEAN & GREEN PORT OF HOUSTON PROGRAM

Seven months into the Clean & Green program, enough trash has been collected from Buffalo Bayou to fill nearly 47 garbage trucks. The 1,166 cubic yards of trash collected so far would fill a basketball court more than 6 and one-half feet high in trash. Soon, even the tallest players will not be able to see over such a mountain of trash.



### Questions?

Please direct all inquiries and comments to:

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### Port of Houston Authority Commission

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