



NoPort News

A newsletter of the North Carolina International Terminal

All the news that prints to fit.

December 1, 2009

Dredging in the Dark

“Sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants, electric light the most efficient policeman.”
–Justice Louis Brandeis

"A democracy requires accountability, and accountability requires transparency"
–President Barack Obama

“All Corps planning studies are required to incorporate public involvement, collaboration and coordination with their Federal and non-Federal partners and the public.”
–US Army Corps of Engineers Planning Guidance Notebook

“Maximize Public Input. Each project should have a detailed public involvement strategy that is keyed to maximize public input *at each stage* of the planning process.”
–US Army Corps of Engineers Planning Guidance Notebook, Appendix B

“A process that can’t be seen can lead to suspicion.”
–Corps of Engineers, Institute for Water Resources, Planning Manual.

“Public participation is an integral part of all Civil Works processes.
I welcome your participation.”
–John Paul Woodley, Jr., Assistant Secretary of the Army–Civil Works
(Letter to NoPortSouthport NC, Inc., January 23, 2009)

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Wilmington District of the US Army Corps of Engineers has told us there will not be any public involvement in the reconnaissance study for a new channel for the North Carolina International Terminal, other than provision of an address to send comments. No information on which to comment has been provided. There will be no response to any such comments. There will not be any public meetings. Drafts of the study will not be available for inspection and comment. The study will not see the light of day until it is complete and sent to the South Atlantic Division.

We were advised that there would be opportunity to comment at that stage. Upon inquiry to the Division, we learned that is not true.

We have been assured, however, that the North Carolina State Ports Authority and its consultants will have access to the process. Project sponsors are customarily entitled to such access. We do not argue with that. But we think that the people whose homes and communities are at stake are entitled to the same access.

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