



# NoPort News

A newsletter of the North Carolina International Terminal

*All the news that prints to fit.*

June 2, 2010

*The head of the N.C. State Ports Authority, Tom Eagar, dismisses the local critics as know-nothings and transplants.*

–Raleigh News & Observer, May 30, 2010

*I may go down in flames, but I will not give up the effort to have this port built.*

–Tom Eagar, CEO, North Carolina State Ports Authority

*The jawbone of an ass is just as dangerous a weapon today as in Sampson's time.*

–Richard Nixon

## ***Ad Hominem, ad Nauseum***

A lawyer will tell you (and is) that if the case is a good one, argue the facts. If it is not so good, argue the law. And if there is no case at all, attack the other lawyer. This argument even has a name—*ad hominem*—to the man.

So Tom Eagar has chosen to attack the critics of his beloved North Carolina International Terminal. Your faithful editor takes that personally—but with a certain satisfaction. Because there is no case at all for a huge container terminal in Southport. Here are some problems:

- the existing container terminal at Wilmington is operating at about half its capacity, despite vigorous marketing and bargain rates. The business plan for the proposed terminal requires fifteen times as much traffic and much higher rates.
- The cost of developing the terminal is estimated at \$1.4 billion. A recent similar project in Portsmouth, Virginia, cost about a third as much and has not been successful.
- The terminal site is 22 miles from deep water, and the cost of the necessary dredging would be \$1.2 billion. The existing channel has a sharp turn, and cannot be enlarged in compliance with the Corps of Engineers engineering manual. The alternate route would cross a Federal reserve and is prohibited by law.
- The Castle Hayne aquifer lies under the terminal site and would be penetrated by the dredging for the vessel berths, putting the groundwater supply of southeast Brunswick County at risk.

There are many more. You could look them up. [www.noportsouthport.org](http://www.noportsouthport.org)

One more quotation. This from the Official Statement for a State Ports Authority bond issue in March: “Development of the NCIT Property will depend upon future demand for services at the Ports.” Something less than a ringing endorsement of the project, eh?

**NO PORT Southport NC, Inc.**

**Post Office Box 10062**  
[www.noportsouthport.org](http://www.noportsouthport.org)

**Southport, NC 28461**