

Some Facts about the Container Terminal Planned for the Cape Fear River at Southport

*(From the consultant's feasibility report commissioned
by the North Carolina State Ports Authority)*

Location:

A 600-acre tract, currently undeveloped, between the Fort Fisher ferry terminal and Sunny Point, next to the Brunswick Nuclear Plant.

Capacity:

3,000,000 TEU per year. TEU means "twenty-foot equivalent unit." Some containers are 20 feet, but most are 40 feet, and some are 53 feet. So the port would handle 1.8 million containers, more or less, annually. This is more than any terminal on the East Coast except Port Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Vessels:

Up to 12,000 TEU capacity, with an overall length of 1,263 feet and a beam of 185 feet. Such vessels, such as the *Emma Maersk*, are the largest ships in service today, larger than any tanker in service, larger than the aircraft carrier *USS Enterprise*, the largest naval vessel in the world. The consultants anticipate eight ships would visit the terminal each week. Operations would be conducted 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Dredging:

The very large container ships would require a new channel, 600 feet wide and 52 feet deep, from the port location out to sea at the Cape Fear. Such a channel cannot follow the existing channel past Southport, but must be cut through shallow water, islands and marshland to the east of Battery Island.

Rail connection:

The State Ports Authority proposes to ship half of the containers received by rail, over the tracks currently passing through Boiling Spring Lakes. Ten to 14 trains a day, most 10,000 feet (almost two miles) long, will be required.

Trucks:

The containers not carried by rail will move by truck. Trucks will operate 16 hours a day, five and half days per week. Peak traffic will be 441 trucks per hour, one every eight seconds. Highway alternatives are being considered; all include NC87 as part of the route between the terminal and US17.

NO PORT Southport NC, Inc.

Post Office Box 10062
www.noportssouthport.org

Southport, NC 28461