



NoPort News

A newsletter opposed to the North Carolina International Terminal

All the news that prints to fit.

July 2011

On June 13, No Port Southport (NPSP) Steering Committee members met with representatives from two private consulting companies, AECOM and URS, hired by the NC Dept. of Transportation as part of a team to develop a [maritime strategy](#) for North Carolina. In February 2012, this NC Maritime Strategy Team will make recommendations to our elected officials in Raleigh concerning the future of port operations along NC's coast. The following are highlights of our June 13 meeting.

Consulting Company Background

AECOM Corporation (<http://www.aecom.com>)

- a global provider of professional technical and management support services to a broad range of markets, including transportation, facilities, environmental, energy, water and government.
- 45,000 employees around the world.
- A Fortune 500 company with revenues of \$7.3 billion.

URS Corporation (<http://www.urscorp.com/index.php>)

- a leading provider of engineering, construction and technical services for ports & harbors worldwide for over a century.
- handles major waterfront support structures for bulk handling, container & cruise ship facilities, navy port installations and recreational marinas.

NPSP and Maritime Strategy Team Discussion

NPSP presented 3 areas for discussion

- 1. No new deep water port is needed on the East Coast (Norfolk to Savannah) and specifically in NC.**
- 2. If NC develops a new deep-water port, the Southport 600-acre site is not a suitable location.**
- 3. We need to create a responsible, alternate use of the Southport 600-acre site.**

Results of the discussion

- The Strategy Team was not interested in discussing aquifer, health or infrastructure issues.
- The Team appeared to be geared towards the years 2034 to 2050 as the period of time for the NC Maritime Strategy to be up and running. This timing is critical since the NC Ports Authority said that the NCIT mega port needed to be up and running no later than 2019.
- The Team was not aware of [Dr. Davis' study](#) on the future of East Coast ports. This appeared to indicate that they had not reviewed NPSP's website. The Team members appeared interested in reading this study.
- [Dr. Mallin's report](#) which focused on the environmental issues of the Cape Fear River region was mentioned, but the Team seemed to imply that environmental considerations were to be considered later—maybe way, way later.
- The Strategy Team was asked if they had the authority to contact the Federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) or if they were planning to contact them. No clear answer was provided.
- NPSP informed them of the Martin-Marietta issue (1998) when the NRC shut down Martin-Marietta's operations (in the same general area in Southport proposed for the mega port) because of proposed blasting. The blasting posed a danger to the adjacent Progress Energy nuclear power plant. It is highly likely that constructing the mega port would require blasting.
- The Strategy Team will be meeting with Progress Energy and the military. The Military Ocean Terminal at Sunny Point adjacent to the proposed NCIT site is the largest ammunition terminal in the U.S.
- The Military Terminal meeting will most likely take place at the Department of Defense—Transportation Command level (TRANSCOM).
- The Team was not aware that Center Point Properties, Inc. had been considered as a potential private partner for the NCSPA in building the NCIT mega port.
- NPSP pointed out that Center Point visited the area, did a site/cost survey & analysis and left after their findings were analyzed. Center Point left with no interest in pursuing the NCIT mega port project.

Conclusion

NPSP provided the Maritime Strategy Team with significant data to factually inform them of the folly in pursuing a deep-water port on the Cape Fear River. The consensus from the NPSP Steering Committee members present was that this meeting was merely a "courtesy call" so that the Team could say they had met with all concerned parties. It is unclear what, if any, impact public input will have on the Maritime Strategy Team's final recommendations and report in February.

The public needs to remain vigilant to whatever recommendations are made in the Maritime Strategy Team final report and what our elected officials will subsequently decide regarding the future for NC coastal port operations.

NO PORT Southport NC, Inc.

Post Office Box 10062
www.noportsouthport.org

Southport, NC 28461