

Port E-News

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Port of Galveston and Port of Victoria to Cooperate on Agricultural Exports

On March 17, 2003, the Port of Galveston hosted tour of port facilities for the commission and management of the Port of Victoria Texas and other Victoria County officials with a focus on Galveston Bulk Terminal at Pier 35/36. This tour was a result of the new cooperative arrangement between the Port of Galveston and the Port of Victoria, in support of the export of Texas-grown agricultural products. The cooperation between the two ports involves the development of agricultural storage facilities at the Port of Victoria and the export of agricultural products through the new Galveston Bulk Terminal at Pier 35 at the Port of Galveston.

“This is an excellent opportunity for an inland port to work hand-in-hand with a deep water port to facilitate economic growth in our state” stated Steven M. Cernak, Galveston Port Director. “The port cooperation will provide an outlet for agricultural products grown in Texas that has not previously existed. It will also be a means to support the further development of Galveston Bulk Terminal and the creation of additional cargo volume. The partnership between the two ports will ultimately result in reduced transportation costs for Texas farmers in delivering their goods to market. Additionally, and importantly, it will help to create new jobs and economic impact for the communities in which the ports are located.”

Galveston Bulk Terminal (GBT) at Pier 35 at the Port of Galveston became available at the end of 2003, having operated previously as the Imperial Sugar Company sugar terminal. GBT is directly served by both the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company and the Union Pacific Railroad, and is located on the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway. GBT operates the highest-speed water-to-rail transfer facility on the U.S. Gulf Coast. Currently, export bulk cargo can be transloaded at the facility from barges to ship and import bulk cargoes can be unloaded from vessel direct to railcars, to barge or to the GBT warehouse for storage and onward transport via rail.

The Port of Victoria and the Farmer's Co-op of El Campo signed an agreement to build and manage an export facility on Victoria's rail line near the barge loading dock. When this phase is completed, two 200,000 bushel bins with a capacity to load at 50,000 bushels per hour will occupy the five-acre site. Victoria will invest over two million dollars in the project. The work will be completed in time to move this year's crop.

“The Port of Victoria is proud and privileged to partner with a co-op of El Campo's reputation. With the ability to export by rail or water, we can expect significant tonnage to move through the port,” stated Howard Hawthorne, Port of Victoria Executive Director. “The new relationship between the Port of Victoria and the Port of Galveston is the next step of this development. We can load barges here at the Port of Victoria for shipment to Galveston Bulk Terminal (GBT) at the deepwater Port of Galveston. There these Texas-grown commodities can be transloaded straight from barge to vessel for export to countries that can use them. This is a great opportunity for the Port of Victoria to support regional economic growth in cooperation with the Port of Galveston.”

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