

Suderman Contracting to Operate New Terminal

The Port of Galveston entered into an agreement in March 2003 with Suderman Contracting Stevedores to construct and operate a new cement-handling facility at Pier 41. The lease is for a period of 18 months with two one-year renewal options. Start-up of the facility is projected for the first quarter of 2004.

“We are indeed excited about the possibility of a new cement operation at the Port of Galveston,” stated Steven M. Cernak, Port Director of the Port of Galveston. “When the silo vessel *Creda* was docked at Pier 28 from 1998 through 2002, our bulk cargo tonnages soared. With the assistance of our local stevedoring company, Suderman Contracting Stevedores, we have secured this new piece of business that will positively impact the economy of Galveston Island.”

Holcim (US) Inc., manufacturer and owner of the cement, was associated with the *Creda* bulk cement operation. At that time, the cement was imported at the Galveston facility and distributed to local and national markets. Now the cement will come by rail from the Holcim facility located in Midlothian, Texas. It will then be distributed to the market by truck or barge.

“When we were considering the possibility of a new terminal, we knew that Galveston was the place that we wanted to come back to,” stated David Berndt of Holcim. “When we had the *Creda* dockside here several years ago, we had a great relationship with the

Port, the ILA and with the stevedore, Suderman Contracting Stevedores. We look forward to another good working relationship with all concerned.”

Of significant interest is the fact that a customer for the cement was found close by.

Dorsett Brothers, a customer of Holcim, has the contract to provide the cement to Trailer Brothers of Indiana, the general contractors building the new Galveston Causeway.