



P R E S S R E L E A S E

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY DISCUSSES DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS WITH PORT OFFICIALS

The Port of South Louisiana officials met recently with newly appointed Louisiana Economic Development Secretary Stephen Moret to discuss the deepwater port's key infrastructure projects slated for 2008 and the near future.

Executive Director, Joel Chaisson, outlined the port's top infrastructure and expansion projects for this year and into the next several years that are critical to meeting short-term customer demand and for its continued growth.

Key projects in the port's 54-mile Mississippi River district include strengthening the access bridge to the existing general cargo dock to accommodate heavier truck loads; construction of a finger pier extension to the general cargo dock to allow direct barge-to-ship loading/unloading; construction of a new dock and on-dock transit shed at its Globalplex Intermodal Terminal to meet additional commodity storage and handling demand from customers in the industrial park; roadway improvements and a new railroad spur to enhance transportation in and out of Globalplex; increased security systems surveillance and communication through leading-edge equipment; and the construction of a general cargo dock in St. Charles Parish to attract industrial development on the west bank of the river.

Secretary Moret told port officials that Louisiana's ports are very important to Governor Jindal and are on his list of priorities as key to economic growth. He commented that he was impressed by the detailed plan presented on the projects vital to the advancement of the port.

Assistant Secretary of Economic Development, Don Pierson, a long-time supporter of the port and River Parish Region, was also present and commented that he was pleased with the many champions in the state for the port system.

The Port of South Louisiana, a 54-mile port district on the Mississippi River between New Orleans and Baton Rouge encompassing St. Charles, St. John and St. James parishes, is the largest tonnage port in the western hemisphere and accounts for over 50 percent of all Louisiana imports/exports.



Left to right: Don Pierson, Assistant Secretary, Louisiana Economic Development; Joel Chaisson, Executive Director, Port of South Louisiana; Stephen Moret, Secretary, Louisiana Economic Development; Joey Murray, Commission President, Port of South Louisiana; Louis Joseph, Commissioner, Port of South Louisiana; and Larry Jackson, Commissioner, Port of South Louisiana