

Virginia Port Authority

600 World Trade Center

Norfolk, VA 23510

(757) 683-8000

www.vaports.com

News Release

Sept. 25, 2008

Contact: Joe Harris, Media Relations Manager

Tel: (757) 683-2137 / (800) 446-8098

Cell: (757) 617-0006

Fax: (757) 683-2897

jharris@vaports.com

Linda Ford, Director of Port Promotion

Tel: (757) 683-2140 / (800) 446-8098

Cell: (757) 615-7704

lford@vaports.com

EPA Lauds Virginia Port Authority's Commitment to the Environment

NORFOLK – The US Environmental Protection Agency on Thursday honored the Virginia Port Authority's ongoing environmental commitment by awarding it one of the agency's 2008 Mid-Atlantic Environmental Achievement Awards.

“Environmental protection is a team effort and these awards highlight some of the remarkable work being done by our partners throughout the region,” said EPA Regional Administrator Donald S. Welsh.

The Mid-Atlantic Environmental Achievement Awards recognize groups, agencies, individuals and businesses making extraordinary contributions to improving the environment in the mid-Atlantic region, which includes Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia. The winning entries were selected from among more than 100 nominations.

The center point of the VPA's overall environmental effort is its comprehensive environmental management system (EMS), which is a plan that was developed and implemented at all three of the state-owned marine terminals in 2004. Since that time the EMS achieved ISO 14001 certification.

In short, the EMS determined the significant environmental aspects of the terminal operations; developed management plans to reduce environmental impacts, wrote standard operating procedures, instituted a training program and schedule and created an internal audit program.

In addition to the EMS, the VPA instituted several voluntary programs aimed at reducing air pollution, storm water runoff, fuel consumption, wetlands protection and habitat restoration. Moreover, the VPA works closely with the Elizabeth River Project on ways to lessen the environmental impact the terminals have on the river. The Elizabeth River Project was also named a recipient of this year's Mid-Atlantic Environmental Achievement Awards.

"In my mind this award not only celebrates the environmental practices and accomplishments of the Virginia Port Authority but also serves to recognize the efforts of our partners, including Virginia International Terminals, the Virginia Maritime Association and the Hampton Roads Shipping Association," said Heather L.W. Mantz, the VPA's environmental director. "It is a testament to the teamwork and leadership of the port."

#

The Virginia Port Authority (VPA) is an agency of the Commonwealth of Virginia, reporting to the state Secretary of Transportation. The VPA owns and operates four general cargo facilities on behalf of the state: Norfolk International Terminals, Portsmouth Marine Terminal, Newport News Marine Terminal and the Virginia Inland Port in Warren County. The terminals are operated by Virginia International Terminals, Inc. (VIT) the non-stock, non-profit operating company. The VPA, through terminal earnings generated by VIT, is operationally self-sufficient. The VPA and correlating maritime industry is responsible for 343,000 jobs, \$41 billion in total revenues throughout the Commonwealth.