



Thomas J. Eagar
Chief Executive Officer

March 17, 2009

Ms. Juanita Roushdy
President
Cape Fear Audubon Society
PO Box 414
Wilmington, NC 28402

Dear Ms. Roushdy,

I appreciate your letter expressing the concerns of the Cape Fear Audubon Society regarding the North Carolina International Terminal (NCIT). The North Carolina State Ports Authority is committed to an open and transparent development process and letters like yours are an important part of this process.

As I have stated before, you can neither develop nor operate major ports without proactively considering the broadband of environmental impacts ports generate. It's a part of doing business and it's a strategic imperative: ports must manage environmental affairs effectively. During the development process, there will be many opportunities for public comment and input. Development of NCIT will be subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the federal law that, among other regulations, mandates a comprehensive environmental study protocol. The NEPA process will include public meetings and public comment periods, along with other public outreach opportunities. We believe this process will be very informative to residents and the Authority. It is important to remember that this isn't an Authority-run process — rather, it is the process set forth by impartial government agencies tasked with protecting the environment. This will be a fair and comprehensive process with adequate notice to all residents, community leaders and activists of and incorporating several different ways to participate. During this phase, state and federal agencies will examine your concerns about White Ibis nesting sites.

In particular, you note your organization's concern about the Castle Hayne aquifer. I want to assure you that these questions will be addressed as part of the environmental studies. During the next iteration of the deepening process, this is an important question that will be re-examined with thorough, independent scientific studies. In cooperation with state and federal agencies, the Authority will continue to rely on state of the art equipment, modeling and resources.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE PORTS AUTHORITY

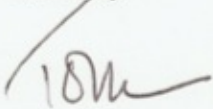
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You also mention your concern regarding invasive species and ballast water. The potential effects of ballast water discharge is an issue that has received much attention in the shipping industry -- and rightfully so. The Authority and the shipping industry strongly support the implementation of stringent ballast water treatment standards and continue to monitor national and international progress on this critical issue.

The North Carolina State Ports Authority is committed to keeping area leaders and concerned residents informed of developments at each of its locations. Regular communication between the Authority and community stakeholders like the Cape Fear Audubon Society enables the Authority to be a good neighbor while maximizing the potential for economic development and much-needed job growth. I appreciate your taking the time to write and would welcome any additional thoughts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'TJ Eagar', written over a diagonal line.

Thomas J. Eagar
Chief Executive Officer

TJE/sja