



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Port Authority Awarded EPA Grant to Capture Floating Debris in River

Grant underscores Port's strategic goal to play leadership role in river restoration

Cleveland, Oh – August 10, 2011—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has awarded the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority a \$425,160 grant for a specialized system to capture and remove floating debris along North Coast Harbor and the Cuyahoga River ship channel. The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant will allow the Port to move forward with one element of a broader plan for river infrastructure renewal as outlined in its draft Strategic Action Plan.

“The Port is in a unique position to be a steward of the Cuyahoga River,” said Port President and CEO Will Friedman. “The River is essential to industry and jobs, and is a magnet for local residents and development. These grant dollars help us contribute to River restoration and will promote jobs, commerce and recreational activities.”

The Port Authority worked closely on the grant application with the staff for the Cuyahoga River Remedial Action Plan (RAP), which promotes restoration of environmental quality and seeks to eliminate environmental concerns that impair the quality of the River.

The Port Authority plans to use the grant to acquire a debris-removal system comprised of a debris harvester vessel, a loading bucket on a hydraulic lift, a floating boom system, and a companion vessel to carry trash to the shore. Debris is a federally listed impairment to the River, and by constructing and operating the system, the Port will help to eliminate a problematic issue from the EPA's watch list.

The 10 to 12 month project to produce the debris harvester and related equipment will involve approximately 20 construction jobs. Once the vessel system is in operation three to five seasonal workers will be needed. Cleanup is anticipated to begin in spring of 2012.

The Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority operates the Port of Cleveland and provides innovative financing services for a wide range of development projects in Northeast Ohio. Nearly 18,000 jobs and 1.8 billion in economic activity result from the 13 million tons of cargo that move through the Cleveland harbor on average each year.