



PRESS RELEASE

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Port Authority Receives 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), through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, has awarded the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority a \$425,610 grant to capture and remove floating debris in the North Coast Harbor and the Cuyahoga Ship Channel. The grant allows the Port to move forward with one element of a broader plan for river infrastructure renewal as outlined in its recently released 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, 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.”

To apply for the grant the Port Authority worked closely with 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, to determine appropriate remedial action to eliminate River debris.

The grant funds allow the Port Authority to acquire a specialized vessel—a debris harvester that removes litter and tree refuse from the River using a loading bucket on a hydraulic lift along with a floating boom system and companion barge. Debris is a federally listed impairment to the River, and by constructing and operating the harvesting vessel, the Port will help to eliminate a problematic issue from the EPA's watch list.

The 10 to 12 month project to produce and deploy the debris management system will provide approximately 20 construction jobs and three to five seasonal jobs. Clean-up 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.