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CPA Selects Design and Engineering Firm for Pier 7 Work

On Wednesday, March 6, the Connecticut Port Authority announced that GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc., with offices in Trumbull, Glastonbury and Manchester, will provide design and engineering solutions for repairs and modifications of Pier 7 located at Fort Trumbull.

Working closely with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) – the facility owner – the Connecticut Port Authority is investing \$750,000 in the project and will oversee the study.

Pier 7 is an important piece of Connecticut's maritime infrastructure, and this project will identify the upgrades needed to improve its overall safety and structural integrity to allow for continued calls by Coast Guard and Naval vessels, with the potential to attract other larger vessels such as cruise ships.

"At the Port Authority, our job is to invest in maritime projects that grow the state's economy," said Evan Matthews, the Executive Director of the Connecticut Port Authority. "By taking this first step to assess the design and engineering of Pier 7, we are committing to the economic possibilities that will exist when the project is complete. We are excited for GZA GeoEnvironmental to begin the design work for upgrades at Pier 7."

Tom Tyler, Director, State Parks and Public Outreach Division of DEEP, stated, "We at DEEP are appreciative of the CT Port Authority's interest in the long-term viability of Pier 7 at Fort Trumbull State Park. The Piers at Fort Trumbull in New London are a wonderful resource for the public, whether that is fishing access from the Fishing Pier, or to support visiting ships on Pier 7. This design work will provide the information needed to assure that Pier 7 can continue to provide this important ship access into the future."

The upgrades needed at Pier 7 include electrical system, fresh water supply piping, sewage disposal piping, lighting and infrastructure upgrades. The design and engineering study will determine the full extent of improvements and the cost of the repairs. Once the study is complete, further CPA investment will be needed for construction.

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USCGC Eagle and other visiting tall ships docked at Fort Trumbull's Pier 7 (top left) and Pier 4 (top right).

Photo: ct.gov



Coast Guard and CPA Strengthen Partnership to Keep Connecticut Waters Safe

At the CPA Board Meeting on March 6th, Rear Admiral Tiongson of the U.S. Coast Guard emphasized that a continued strong relationship between CPA and the Coast Guard plays a critical role in advancing Connecticut's maritime economy. During this discussion the Coast Guard presented their Maritime Commerce Strategic Outlook, which shared the current status of the U.S. Coast Guard in the Northeast, shared insights into the commercial activity of Long Island sound and emphasized the services that the Coast Guard provides to safeguard and support maritime commerce.

Did you know?

In 2018, the Hebridean Sky docked at New London's City Pier and nearly 100 passengers visited the region before departing for Martha's Vineyard. This was the first visit from a cruise ship since 2014, and the CPA is working to increase the infrastructure and support necessary to bring more ships in the future.



The Hebridean Sky.

CPA Talks Offshore Wind with Regional Leaders

In February, the Connecticut Port Authority participated in an event hosted by the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut in New London to discuss the possibility of offshore wind energy development and the potential impact on Southeastern Connecticut. Having recently selected a new terminal operator for State Pier, CPA's vision remains to create a world-class deepwater port facility that could accommodate increased conventional cargo flow, while also capturing the great opportunities presented by emerging industries, such as offshore wind.

"The investments made to date send a clear and convincing message that Connecticut is serious about wind power," said Port Authority Chairman Scott Bates. "That kind of signal shows the industry that they can add their own investment and make Southeast Connecticut a wind power hub for a generation to come."

CPA Chairman Scott Bates was joined on the panel by Deputy DECD Commissioner David Kooris, Senator Paul Formica, Head of New England Markets for Ørsted Matthew Morrissey, and Senior Policy Advocate for the Acadia Center Deborah Donovan. New London Mayor Michael Passero welcomed everyone to this important discussion about the future of offshore wind in Connecticut.

The Thames River Maritime Workgroup.



CPA Introduces Gateway Terminal to Thames River Business Community

Newly elected CPA Vice-Chair Bonnie Reemsnyder introduced Gateway New London, LLC to the Thames River Maritime Workgroup, a monthly gathering of maritime business and community leaders. The workgroup was an opportunity for the new State Pier terminal operator to meet with stakeholders and discuss opportunities for growing the Connecticut Maritime Economy. The Thames River Maritime Workgroup meets monthly at rotating venues.

IN THE NEWS

The Real Story: Wind Farms
March 17, Fox 61

At New London's State Pier, wind power gives Connecticut its next economic development opportunity
March 9, Hartford Courant

Town dock repairs linked with growth of region's culinary tourism
February 7, Westerly Sun