

Auto Berth Update

“The construction of the Port of Wilmington’s dedicated auto berth is in full swing and progressing rapidly with the driving of the supporting piles for the berth,” according to Mike Sprague, director of Planning and Development at the Port of Wilmington.

This Spring marked the beginning of the first stage of construction of Wilmington’s first dedicated car carrier berth in the Delaware River. Nearly 500 support piles will be placed in the river to support the berth and its 900-foot trestle.

According to the design, the new auto berth will be constructed approximately 900 feet off shore in the Delaware River near the northern Port boundary and parallel to the north-south shoreline. It will be approximately 875 feet long, 115 feet wide and supported on steel piles.

Last March, Kuhn Construction, Inc. of Wilmington was awarded contracts to drive the test piles for the berth and to construct the berth and trestle. In April, eight test piles were driven into the river in selected locations to determine the precise criteria for the piles and their required location.

Right on schedule in July, Kuhn Construction started placing the concrete pier caps onto the support piles. The pier caps will then be covered and secured by a concrete deck to form the final berth structure.

Driving of piles for the berth itself began in early August. Completion of this phase is scheduled for mid-October. In May, R.E. Pierson Construction Company was awarded a contract to construct the dedicated two-lane access roadway and a 10-acre automobile staging area adjacent to the berth. The

dedicated roads will connect the berth to the 10-acre vehicle staging area and to the existing import/export auto terminals and vehicle processing facilities.

Pierson’s efforts thus far have been to complete placement of the surcharge materials on the staging area to quicken settlement and improve load capacity. Pierson is also making good progress installing drainage structures for the roadway. The road is scheduled to be substantially completed and paved by December.

Port officials are pleased with the timely progress of the project which will be completed in August of 2002. Diamond State Port Corporation Executive Director Adam McBride is confident that the dedicated berth, in conjunction with the excellent service the Port provides, will help retain existing auto business as well as increase future auto & Ro/Ro trade through the Port of Wilmington.

“We are certain that the new auto berth will help our customers to further develop their import export auto business and attract new automobile manufacturers, car carrier lines, and good jobs to the Port of Wilmington,” added McBride.



The construction of the Port of Wilmington’s dedicated automobile berth on the Delaware River is progressing on schedule with the placement of the support piles for the berth and pier caps. The berth on the Delaware River will be approximately 875 feet long, 115 feet wide and supported on 500 steel support piles.