

Port of Wilmington Auto Carrier Berth Update

Update

“The construction of the Port of Wilmington’s dedicated auto berth is progressing well with the placement of all support piles and paving of the trestle completed in late November 2001,” reported Director of Planning and Development at the Port of Wilmington Paul F. Ignudo. Kuhn Construction, the marine contractor, has placed nearly 500 support piles in the river to support the berth and the 900-foot trestle and completed the trestle to the point that it now can provide access for crews to work on the berth. In December, Kuhn continued placing pre-cast concrete pile caps and decking on the berth, and is scheduled to complete this activity in March 2002, weather permitting.

The auto berth project includes construction of a dedicated two-lane access

roadway that will connect the berth to a 10-acre vehicle staging area adjacent to the berth and to existing import/export auto terminals and vehicle processing facilities, both on and off the Port. R.E. Pierson Construction Company has completed the construction of the roadway, which included placing the first layer of the asphalt pavement over the entire roadway length with the exception of a short length of the roadway at the staging area, which is covered with surcharge material. The surcharge material placed on the staging area will remain in place until the spring of 2002 to provide maximum settlement and compaction of this area. Pierson is scheduled to complete all remaining road paving in late spring of 2002.

During the fall of 2001, the final three

contracts to provide utilities for the project were awarded. These included: electrical, fire protection and plumbing. The electrical contract was awarded to Alfred J. Fry III, Inc. of West Chester, PA. This contractor mobilized during October 2001, and will install all lighting and

electrical service for the roadway, trestle and the berth. The fire protection contract was awarded to S.A. Comunale Company, Inc. of Westlawn, PA, who will install a fire pump, hydrants, and piping on the berth. Schlosser and Associates, Inc. of Newark, DE was awarded the plumbing contract to provide potable water to the berth. This work is scheduled to begin in early January 2002. All utilities should be in place by late spring 2002.

“We have experienced great cooperation and team work between all of the construction companies participating in the project, and this leads us to believe that the project will be completed on schedule,” said Bill Haase, Nason Construction’s on-site superintendent responsible for coordinating all contractor activities.

“This fall, we completed two significant parts of the project: pouring the top concrete surface of the trestle, which was done in 10 straight hours, and paving of the access road leading from the berth to the staging area and the car facilities,” Haase added. The next challenge was the placement of 1,000 pre-cast concrete pile caps and planks onto the berth, and then placement of the concrete deck. If weather conditions permit, this stage will be accomplished by early spring 2002. The entire project remains on schedule to be completed by August 2002, and is under budget at \$27.5 million.



Photo by NiteScan Graphics

The Port of Wilmington’s dedicated auto carrier berth project is progressing on schedule with the completion of the trestle and the placement of the pile caps at the berth.