

November 7-10

**Infrastructure Security Conference, St. Louis, MO,**  
hosted by Society of American Military Engineers.  
Contact [www.meetmeinstlouis.org](http://www.meetmeinstlouis.org).

December 1-3

**International WorkBoat Show, New Orleans.**  
Contact [www.workboatshow.com](http://www.workboatshow.com).

January 24-26, 2005

**Maritime Port and Cargo Security Conference,**  
San Diego. Contact 1-800-647-7600 or  
[www.worldrg.com](http://www.worldrg.com).

April 20-22

**Inland Rivers, Ports and Terminals Annual Meeting,**  
New Orleans. For info, [admin@irpt.net](mailto:admin@irpt.net) until more  
details are posted.

The NEWS BULLETIN is a quarterly publication of Inland Rivers, Ports and Terminals, Inc. IRPT, as the intermodal professional association for the nation's inland waterway transportation system, provides inland river, port and terminal professionals and those concerned about the vitality of our industry with the opportunity to improve their professionalism, develop business connections, and educate the general public and policy decision-makers on the needs and importance of our industry.

For an IRPT membership application, go to that page of the IRPT website, [www.irpt.net](http://www.irpt.net), print, complete, and fax to 504-525-8197.

Articles are accepted for publication in the NEWS BULLETIN. Forward all address changes, articles and comments to the IRPT office at 316 Board of Trade Place, New Orleans, LA 70130.

Telephone 504-585-0715. Fax 504-525-8197.

E-mail: [admin@irpt.net](mailto:admin@irpt.net).



**INLAND RIVERS, PORTS & TERMINALS, INC.**

316 Board of Trade Place • New Orleans, LA 70130



INLAND RIVERS, PORTS & TERMINALS, INC.

## News Bulletin

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



### Dear IRPT Members and Friends

By the time you get this newsletter, you should have received your 2004 Directory. That is quite an undertaking but seems to be one of the most appreciated benefits of IRPT membership.

With all of our new members, it has certainly grown in size – and cost. IRPT will host its annual general membership breakfast on Thursday, September 23, at the Adams Mark Hotel in St. Louis in conjunction with the National Waterways Conference Annual Meeting. The speaker at breakfast is Doris Bautch, MARAD Great Lakes Region Director. Although there is no charge for the breakfast, reservations are required – simply email the office at [admin@irpt.net](mailto:admin@irpt.net).

All of you are aware that there is a lot of activity within our inland river system. There are negatives – funding issues, low-use waterway issues (see story inside on the struggles of the Alabama River), water levels, fuel prices, and the rate of exchange against the euro. But there are a lot of positives as well – the term “Short Sea Shipping” has been changed to “National Water Highway” to ensure inclusion of the inland system. Container-on-barge initiatives are picking up momentum, and perhaps more importantly, the inland river community is working together for the good of the industry – and our country.

On a closing note – our Annual Meeting will once again be in New Orleans, April 20-22, 2005. Make plans now to be there!

George Andres, IRPT President

**Fall  
2004**

### MARITIME TV UPDATE

Maritime TV ([www.maritimeTV.com](http://www.maritimeTV.com)) has led a nationwide media campaign – including television, internet, print and radio – to boost awareness of important issues surrounding the US flag fleet. The premium sponsor is the International Organization of

Masters, Mates and Pilots, and new sponsors are being added on a regular basis. Part of the emphasis will be on how the decline of the U.S. flag fleet threatens homeland security and national defense. For sponsorship information, contact [info@maritimeTV.com](mailto:info@maritimeTV.com).

### PEOPLE MAKE THE NEWS

**Capt. Frank Paskewich**, USCG, has been named Captain of the Port of New Orleans. His replacement as the Eighth District Inland Waterways Coordinator is Capt. Tim Close. In that capacity, Capt. Close will be responsible for coordinating port safety and security activities of six Western Rivers captains of the port throughout 10,300 miles of navigable waterways.

**Lt. Gen. Robert B. Flowers**, who very recently retired as commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, will now head the HNTB Federal Services Corporation. As chief executive officer, he will develop the strategic plan to guide the firm in addressing the government’s facility infrastructure and security needs.

### SECOND COB RUN

Osprey Line recently increased its container-on-barge activity between the Port of New Orleans and Baton Rouge by adding a second service per week between the two ports. Osprey’s first weekly container-on-barge service at the Port of New Orleans was launched in 2000 and has been very successful. The Baton Rouge-New Orleans service began in early 2004. The weekly service, calling at Napoleon

Container Terminal and France Road Terminal, is a competitive transportation option for Louisiana shippers, said Rick Couch, President of Osprey Line.

“With this weekly container-on-barge shipping schedule, local companies who import and export products through the Port of New Orleans can take advantage of lower transportation costs. Most products can be moved by container-on-barge,” said Couch.

### ALABAMA RIVER FUNDING ISSUES

The real-life impact of a low-use waterway closure has surfaced in Alabama. Approximately 40 people attended a meeting on August 4 in Montgomery to discuss the issue of federal funding of civil works projects on the Alabama River.

The river has become a target because of the trend of declining tonnage moved on the system over the past decade. The President’s Budget proposal for FY 2005 cut funding both for dredging and for operating Claiborne Lock, the lowermost of the three dams on the Alabama River. In its markup of the FY 2005 Energy and Water Appropriations bill in June, the US House of Representatives restored funding for both projects, but, strangely, cut funding for operating the locks at Millers Ferry and Robert F. Henry, even though that funding had been in the President’s Budget submitted in February. When details of the House markup became apparent, CARIA (Coosa-Alabama River Improvement Association) discovered that

the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works had submitted an amended budget request on April 1 in which funding was shifted from the Alabama River system to a project in Arkansas. (Note: The Alabama River projects were the only “low-use” system in the United States that, having been zeroed out in the President’s Budget, did not get the increased funding needed to ensure continued operations.)

No funding for lock operations means the Mobile District Corps of Engineers will have to pull the lock operators, who also operate the spillway gates at each dam. If the operators are pulled, the spillway gates will have to be left open, which means the water levels behind each dam will be allowed to decrease toward the level of the spillway gates to prevent damage due to pressure differentials between the upper and lower sides of the structure.

To keep the water at normal levels, regardless of the status of the navigation channel, will require funding for spillway operations at all three dams. It is clear the priority

on the Alabama River has to be to keep the reservoirs at their current levels. It doesn’t make sense to close down a federal investment of \$160 million (original construction cost), jeopardize billion-dollar industries and millions of dollars of private investment, put at risk the life savings of private stakeholders, and take away flood protection for an entire river basin in order

to save the federal government such a relatively paltry amount of money -- \$1.5 million.

CARIA intends to package this information and brief those in Washington directly concerned with the funding of these projects. For further information, contact Jerry Sailors at (334) 265-5744 or [cariainc@bellsouth.net](mailto:cariainc@bellsouth.net).

### CARGOES OF CONCERN – AN UPDATE

The Coast Guard is changing the definition of certain dangerous cargo to include ammonium nitrate and certain ammonium nitrate based fertilizers, in bulk, as well as propylene oxide, alone or mixed with ethylene oxide, in bulk. This change is necessary to promote maritime safety and security and facilitate the uninterrupted flow of commerce by increasing the Coast Guard’s ability to maintain awareness of these cargoes. The temporary final rule is effective from September 17, 2004, through March 20, 2006.

The Coast Guard has participated in briefings with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Office of Naval Intelligence, and the Department of Transportation that provided new information about the explosive properties of ammonium nitrate and ammonium nitrate based fertilizers, in bulk. The

Coast Guard has also collected more information regarding the quantities of propylene oxide shipped on the nation’s inland waterways. This new, more accurate information raises additional concerns about the dangers associated with handling and transportation of these chemicals.

In response to these concerns, added to the list of CDCs for which a notice of arrival is required were ammonium nitrate and ammonium nitrate based fertilizers, in bulk, that are listed as Division 5.1 materials in 49 CFR 172.101, as well as propylene oxide, alone or mixed with ethylene oxide, in bulk.

from Federal Register, Vol. 69, No. 159, Wednesday, August 18, 2004, Rules and Regulations, pp. 51176-51177

### CALENDAR

- September 22-24**      **National Waterways Conference. St. Louis, MO.**  
Contact Worth Hager, 202-296-4415 or [worth@waterways.org](mailto:worth@waterways.org).
- September 23**      **IRPT Annual General Membership Breakfast,**  
Adams Mark Hotel, St. Louis. Speaker: Doris Bautch.  
Reservations: [admin@irpt.net](mailto:admin@irpt.net).
- October 13-15**      **Arkansas Governor’s Conference on Waterborne Transportation.** North Little Rock, AR.  
Contact Keith Garrison, 501-682-1173 or [waterway@mail.state.ar.us](mailto:waterway@mail.state.ar.us).
- October 18-19**      **Maritime Domain Awareness, Washington, DC.**  
Contact [www.kingpublishing.com/conferences](http://www.kingpublishing.com/conferences).
- October 20**      **U.S. Section PIANC, Wyndham Inner Harbor, Baltimore.**  
Contact [www.iwr.usace.army.mil/pianc](http://www.iwr.usace.army.mil/pianc).

