

U. S. Department of  
Homeland Security

United States  
Coast Guard



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**DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**

**U. S. COAST GUARD**

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF**

**MR. MARTIN RAJK  
DEPUTY ASSISTANT COMMANDANT FOR RESOURCES**

**ON THE**

**AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT**

**BEFORE THE**

**COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE**

**U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**JULY 31, 2009**

The Coast Guard thanks the Chairman and distinguished members of the Committee for the opportunity to provide the Coast Guard's progress regarding funding received from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) (P.L. 111-5). The ARRA provided the Coast Guard with \$240 million to address critical priorities within our Alteration of Bridges Program and address deficiencies in our shore infrastructure and our High Endurance Cutter fleet.

## **I. ALTERATION OF BRIDGES PROGRAM**

For the Coast Guard's Alteration of Bridges Program, the ARRA provided the following:

For an additional amount for "Alteration of Bridges", \$142,000,000 for alteration or removal of obstructive bridges, as authorized by section 6 of the Truman-Hobbs Act (33 U.S.C. 516): *Provided*, That the Coast Guard shall award these funds to those bridges that are ready to proceed to construction: *Provided further*, That no later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives a plan for the expenditure of these funds.

ARRA funds allow for the completion of four projects to alter bridges found to be unreasonably obstructive to navigation. These construction projects offer numerous benefits: employment for the construction sector and local communities; long-term economic returns; and safely and efficiently navigable waterways. Further, these projects leverage an additional \$120.4 million of previously obligated Bridge Alteration appropriations allocated to these projects. As such, the ARRA appropriation results in a \$262 million stimulative impact on the economies of four different states as well as national suppliers of equipment and materials associated with the projects.

**Summary of the Four Bridge Alteration Construction Projects:** A summary of the four bridge projects, including the current status, funded via the ARRA follows:

### **1. Mobile Bridge (Mobile River), Alabama**

- **Background:** CSX Transportation, owner of the Mobile Bridge, was issued a Coast Guard Order To Alter (OTA) in June 1999.
- **Execution Strategy:** Competitive bid process.
- **Accomplishments to Date & Future Milestones:**
  - Plans, Specifications, and Engineers Estimate are complete.
  - Requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) have been completed.
  - On April 16, 2009, the Coast Guard authorized CSX Transportation to advertise the bid solicitation.
  - Contract award is anticipated by August 2009.
  - Construction completion is anticipated by August 2011.

### **2. Elgin, Joliet & Eastern (EJ&E) Bridge (Illinois Waterway), Illinois**

- **Background:** Owners of the EJ&E Bridge were issued a Coast Guard OTA in February 1995. Effective January 2009, the Canadian National Railway Company became the owner of this bridge.

- **Execution Strategy:** *As required by the Truman-Hobbs Act, Bridge owners will use a form of competitive bidding known as sealed bidding, and bids will be invited from qualified contractors, licensed to do work in the State of Illinois where the bridge is located. Bids will be evaluated on the basis of cost, proposed time to complete the contract, and contractor's qualifications."*
- **Accomplishments to Date:**
  - Plans, Specifications, and Engineers Estimate are complete.
  - Both NEPA and NHPA Section 106 requirements have been completed for the EJ&E Bridge.
  - On 15 May 2009, Coast Guard authorized Canadian National Railway Company to advertise the bid solicitation.
  - Contract award is anticipated by August 2009.
  - Construction completion is anticipated by August 2011.

**3. Burlington Bridge** (Upper Mississippi River), Iowa

- **Background:** The Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad Company, owner of the Burlington Bridge, was issued a Coast Guard OTA in August 1991.
- **Execution Strategy:** Competitive bid process.
- **Accomplishments to Date:**
  - Plans, Specifications, and Engineers Estimate are complete.
  - Both NEPA and NHPA Section 106 requirements have been completed for the Burlington Bridge.
  - On April 27, 2009, the Coast Guard authorized Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad Company to advertise the bid solicitation.
  - Contract award is anticipated by August 2009.
  - Construction completion is anticipated by August 2011.

**4. Galveston Causeway Bridge** (Gulf Intercoastal Waterway), Texas

- **Background:** Galveston County, owner of the Galveston Causeway Bridge, was issued a Coast Guard OTA in June 2001
- **Execution Strategy:** Competitive bid process.
- **Accomplishments to Date:**
  - NEPA and NHPA Section 106 requirements have been addressed. The project's Environmental Assessment, which is estimated to be finished by the end of May 2009, will complete the NEPA process.
  - On 1 July 2009, the Coast Guard authorized Galveston County to advertise bid solicitation.
  - Contract award is anticipated by October 2009.
  - Construction completion is anticipated by October 2011.

**Bridge Alteration Construction Project Schedules and Project Milestones**

Milestones	Mobile	EJ&E	Burlington	Galveston
Authorized Owner to Solicit Bids	16-Apr-09	15-May-09	27-Apr-09	1-Jul-09
Award Construction Contract	15-Aug-09	31-Aug-09	15-Aug-09	23-Oct-09
Completion of Substructure Work	30-Mar-10	31-Apr-10	30-Mar-10	23-Jun-10
Float out and Float in the Movable Span	30-Mar-11	31-Apr-11	30-Mar-11	23-Jun-11
Completion of the Project	15-Aug-11	31-Aug-11	15-Aug-11	23-Oct-11

## II. ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION, AND IMPROVEMENTS (AC&I)

Specific to the Coast Guard's AC&I appropriation, the ARRA provided the following:

For an additional amount for "Acquisition, Construction, and Improvements", \$98,000,000 for shore facilities and aids to navigation facilities; for priority procurements due to materials and labor cost increases; and for costs to repair, renovate, assess, or improve vessels: *Provided*, That no later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives a plan for the expenditure of these funds.

Of the \$98 million appropriated in AC&I funding, \$88 million will be used for the construction, renovation, and repair of vital shore facilities that provided critical support necessary to execute a full range of mission needs. The remaining \$10 million of the appropriation will address High Endurance Cutter (WHEC) fleet Engineering Changes (ECs), which are among the Coast Guard's top mission priorities.

**Shore Facility Projects:** A list of shore facility projects to be completed with ARRA funding is provided below.

### 1. Station Coos Bay, OR

- ***Background:*** The project will provide covered moorings for Coast Guard small boats. The existing covered mooring structure cannot accommodate the station's 47' Motor Lifeboats (MLB). Without adequate covered moorings, boat maintenance and operations are continually disrupted during periods of adverse weather.
- ***Execution Strategy:*** Coast Guard management of design and construction.
- ***Accomplishments to Date:***
  - NEPA and Section 106 NHPA Requirements: An Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact have been completed. NHPA Section 106 requirements will be finished prior to funds execution.
  - Contract award is anticipated by March 2010.
  - Construction completion is anticipated by September 2011.

### 2. Coast Guard Cutter (CGC) Sycamore - Cordova, AK Housing

- ***Background:*** The project will complete the final phase of a housing project to construct 26 housing units. These units are required to support Coast Guard housing needs in Southeast Alaska.
- ***Execution Strategy:*** Coast Guard management of design and construction.
- ***Accomplishments to Date:***
  - NEPA and Section 106 NHPA Requirements: Ongoing, with completion expected prior to funds execution.
  - The Coast Guard exercised an option in June 2009 on the existing contract for Phase IV of the project.
  - Construction completion is anticipated by March 2011.

### 3. Station Neah Bay, WA

- **Background:** The project will provide covered moorings for Coast Guard small boats. Without covered moorings, boat maintenance and operations are continually disrupted during periods of adverse weather.
- **Execution Strategy:** Coast Guard management of design and construction.
- **Accomplishments to Date:**
  - NEPA and Section 106 NHPA Requirements: An Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact have been completed. NHPA Section 106 requirements will be finished prior to funds execution.
  - Contract award is anticipated by September 2009.
  - Construction completion is anticipated by September 2011.

### 4. Support Center Elizabeth City, NC

- **Background:** The project will replace Thrun Hall (Barracks), Phase I. This barracks facility is functionally obsolete, including numerous code compliance discrepancies, in poor condition, and beyond economic rehabilitation.
- **Execution Strategy:** Coast Guard management of design and construction.
- **Accomplishments to Date:**
  - NEPA and Section 106 NHPA Requirements: An Environmental Assessment and NHPA Section 106 consultation have been initiated and will be finished prior to funds execution.
  - Contract award is anticipated by March 2010.
  - Construction completion is anticipated by September 2011.

### 5. Station Indian River, DE

- **Background:** The project will provide waterfront bulkhead repairs and replacement for a Coast Guard small boat station.
- **Execution Strategy:** Coast Guard management of design and construction.
- **Accomplishments to Date:**
  - NEPA and Section 106 NHPA Requirements: A categorical exclusion has been completed. NHPA Section 106 requirements have been met and there is no impact to historic resources.
  - Contract award is anticipated by March 2010.
  - Construction completion is anticipated by June 2011.

### 6. Training Center (TRACEN) Yorktown, VA

- **Background:** The project will upgrade the water distribution system for a large Coast Guard training campus to meet life-safety standards.
- **Execution Strategy:** Coast Guard management of design and construction.
- **Accomplishments to Date:**
  - NEPA and Section 106 NHPA Requirements: An Environmental Assessment and NHPA Section 106 consultation have been initiated and will be finished prior to funds execution.
  - Contract award is anticipated by March 2010.
  - Construction completion is anticipated by September 2011.

## 7. **Group/Air Station North Bend, OR, ENG/AST Building**

- **Background:** The project will demolish six maintenance-intensive and functionally obsolete buildings and replace with a single, multi-purpose facility.
- **Execution Strategy:** Coast Guard management of design and construction.
- **Accomplishments to Date:**
  - NEPA and Section 106 NHPA Requirements: A categorical exclusion has been completed. NHPA Section 106 requirements have been met and there is no impact to historic resources.
  - Contract award is anticipated by March 2010.
  - Construction completion is anticipated by September 2011.

**High Endurance Cutter (WHEC) Engineering Changes:** Of the \$98 million appropriated in AC&I funding, \$10 million was provided to address ECs for the 378' WHEC fleet. These ECs target the most significant mechanical and electrical system issues; they are required to improve existing capabilities and extend the useful life of these cutters. They also address auxiliary support systems, safety, and environmental issues. ECs will be completed based on operational availability of the cutter, equipment, and contractor availability. Of the \$10 million provided for these purposes, \$760,599 will be allocated for Engineering Technical Support, which includes materials market research, engineering drawings, Maintenance Procedure Card development, installation specifications, spare part lists, and technical publications in support of the below ECs. EC costs are in addition to normal maintenance. NEPA and NHPA Section 106 compliance is in progress and will be completed prior to funds execution. The following six ECs will be executed:

### 1. **Boiler Fireside Upgrades & Boiler Reliability Improvement**

- **Background:** The project will replace obsolete and unreliable boiler components with new burner controls and exhaust gas monitoring system on the ship's service boilers.
- **Impacted Cutters:** Coast Guard Cutter (CGC) HAMILTON, DALLAS, BOUTWELL, GALLATIN, RUSH, MUNRO, JARVIS, and MIDGETT.
- **Accomplishments to Date:**
  - Contract award is anticipated by December 2009.
  - Contract completion is anticipated by December 2010.

### 2. **Automatic Bus Transfer Switch Upgrade**

- **Background:** The project will replace the obsolete automatic bus transfer switches to improve electrical distribution reliability and safety.
- **Impacted Cutters:** CGC MELLON, BOUTWELL, SHERMAN, GALLATIN, MORGENTHAU, MUNRO, JARVIS, and MIDGETT.
- **Accomplishments to Date:**
  - Contract award is anticipated by December 2009.
  - Contract completion is anticipated by March 2011.

### 3. **Refrigeration System Upgrade**

- **Background:** The project will replace unserviceable refrigeration boxes and improve the refrigeration system with an environmentally-approved refrigerant.
- **Impacted Cutters:** CGC MELLON, BOUTWELL, MORGENTHAU, and MIDGETT.

- **Accomplishments to Date:**
  - Contract for Government Furnished Equipment (GFE) Contract awarded April 2009.
  - Contract award of remaining \$2,091,000 for installation is anticipated by December 2009.
  - Contract completion is anticipated by September 2010.

#### 4. Fire & Smoke Alarm System

- **Background:** The project will replace an obsolete and unsupported monitoring system, providing a more reliable remote sensing capability.
- **Impacted Cutters:** CGC HAMILTON, DALLAS, CHASE, GALLATIN, RUSH, and JARVIS.
- **Accomplishments to Date:**
  - Contract award is anticipated by December 2009.
  - Contract completion is anticipated by December 2010.

#### 5. Auxiliary Salt Water Pump Replacement

- **Background:** The project will replace worn out and unsupported equipment which provides cooling water to multiple auxiliary support systems.
- **Impacted Cutters:** CGC HAMILTON, DALLAS, CHASE, BOUTWELL, SHERMAN, GALLATIN, MORGENTHAU, and RUSH.
- **Accomplishments to Date:**
  - Contract award is anticipated by August 2009.
  - Contract completion is anticipated by December 2010.

#### 6. Lube Oil Purifier Replacement

- **Background:** The project will replace obsolete lube oil purifiers, which provide lube oil clarification and purification of the main propulsion diesel engines and the ship's service diesel electrical generators.
- **Impacted Cutters:** CGC DALLAS, CHASE, MORGANTHAU, and MELLON.
- **Accomplishments to Date:**
  - Contract award is anticipated by September 2009.
  - Contract completion is anticipated by September 2010.

### CONCLUSION

I appreciate your continued strong support of the Coast Guard. Through funding provided in the ARRA, the Coast Guard is addressing critical infrastructure issues and replacing obsolete and inoperable equipment throughout the 378' WHEC fleet that impede mission performance. There is no question that the funding provided through the ARRA is improving the Coast Guard's operational capabilities, providing an economic boost to American companies and workers, and helping to ensure the long-term viability of infrastructure critical to the economic well-being of communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. I am pleased to answer your questions.