



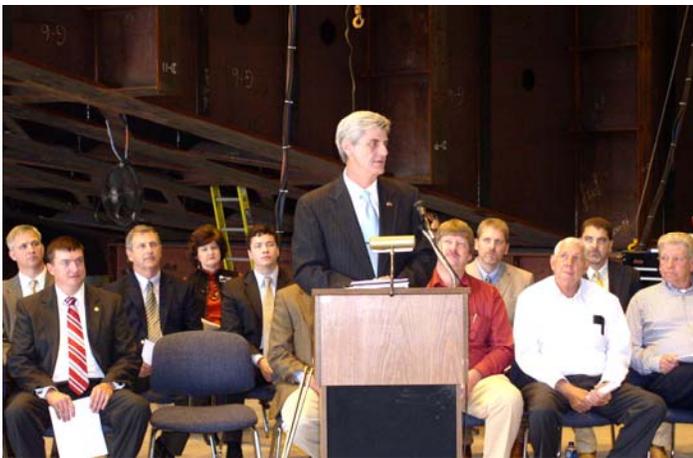
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Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Council

NEWSLETTER

December 2009

G & G Steel



Iuka, Mississippi • Public officials including Mississippi **Lieutenant Governor Phil Bryant** (pictured left standing) recently participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the completed building renovation for G&G Steel. The Russellville, Alabama, based corporation is a specialty fabricator of large component parts for bridges, locks, mining equipment, etc. The company fabricates some of the world's largest metal components and will become a major waterway user.

This project is an initial investment of nearly \$34M and is located in a renovated county-owned industrial building at the 3,500 acre Tri-State Commerce Park which is located on the Tennessee

River and Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway. The company will initially employ 30 with up to 140 expected with the expansion.

“GROWPORTS” Touting Tenn-Tom Assets

Five ports on the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway in Northeast Mississippi have launched a joint initiative to boost awareness as well as traffic on the waterway.

The initiative is a collaborative effort between the Yellow Creek Port, Port Itawamba, Amory Port, Aberdeen Port and Columbus Port that was launched September 1st. “GROW” stands for Generating Regional Opportunity on the Waterway.

The association looks to promote green energy-driven economic development and transportation through the development of a comprehensive, energy-efficient intermodal transportation network connecting the inland waterways of the Tennessee River with the international waterways through Mobile, Alabama and the Southeastern rail network.

The association is actively promoting the 234-mile Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway, which offers 17 public ports and terminals in Mississippi and Alabama and serves deepwater ports along the Gulf of Mexico.

Mr. Greg Deakle, head of the Itawamba County Development Council, said discussions of forming “GROWPORTS” began in the spring of 2008 at a Tenn-Tom event in Tupelo focused on container-on-barge potential for local ports.

The initiative received new life from a unified effort to achieve a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant from the U. S. Department of Transportation (applied for) as funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. TIGER grants will be awarded for capital investments in surface transportation infrastructure projects that will have a significant impact on the nation, a metropolitan area or a region.

Combined, the effort will offer significant assets. Port Itawamba encompasses a barge fleeting area, 1,200 additional feet of mooring and handling space and 150-acre tri-modal industrial park.

Yellow Creek Port offers a 420-foot main dock and storage for 14 barges. The ports at Amory, Aberdeen and Columbus also offer docks, mooring cells, cranes and other infrastructure.

Deakle pointed out that “GROW” also implies “green,” and part of the association’s mission is to tout the ports’ use as a way to ease traffic congestion and, thus, reducing vehicle emissions.

Kentucky Waterways Subcommittee Holds Meeting

The Joint Legislative Subcommittee on Kentucky Waterways met recently in Lexington. **Senator Bob Leeper** and **Representative Will Coursey** co-chair the subcommittees whose primary function is to discuss the issues of Kentucky waterways as it relates to transportation and infrastructure. Guests appearing before the Subcommittee were **Mr. Jeff Wood**, Senior Corporate Council, Ingram Barge Company and **Colonel Keith Landry**, Commander of the Louisville District Corps of Engineers.

Colonel Landry stressed to the Subcommittee that of the eight navigational dams and 16 lock chambers in the Louisville District, three locks are in the top 5 and five in the top 10 of the busiest locks in the nation. He stressed to the Subcommittee that the Ohio River dams and locks are aging and with that aging comes financial responsibility for maintaining navigational infrastructure. He commented that one of the locks at Markland Dam is currently under repair and hopefully will be functional again in April 2010, barring additional problems.

Also testifying before the Subcommittee was Jeff Wood who presented the report from the National Waterways Foundation. He stated that the report showed that transporting freight by water is the most energy efficient choice since one ton of freight can be moved nearly 600 miles on one gallon of fuel by barge as opposed to a truck moving that same ton less than 100 miles per gallon of fuel and rail at approximately 400 miles.

Inland waterways transportation also generates fewer emissions than rail or truck per ton-mile. Water transport also moves hazardous materials safely and has a lower injury and fatality record compared to rail or truck.

Alliant Technologies

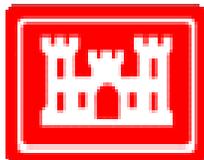
Tishomingo County, Mississippi • **Governor Haley Barbour** and other state and local officials gathered in Jackson, Mississippi recently for the announcement of the expansion of Alliant Technologies (ATK). ATK is committed to creating at least 650 new jobs which will pay an average of \$53,000 per year and will make an investment of a minimum of \$175,000,000 in the Tri-State Commerce Park Facility.



ATK manufactures carbon composite parts for the aerospace industry. Carbon composite parts are ten times lighter than steel yet much stronger than steel.

The luka facility currently produces composite parts for rockets such as the Ares I and commercial aircraft, including the Airbus A350 wide body aircraft.

ATK was touted by TIME magazine for “Best Inventions of 2009” for the Ares I rocket first stage produced at the luka facility.



U. S. Army Corps of Engineers



Lieutenant Colonel Anthony P. Mitchell assumed command of Nashville District, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers on July 17, 2009.

LTC Mitchell previously served as the J42 Construction Branch Chief for headquarters United States Forces Japan, Yokota Air Base, Japan.

As Nashville District Commander, LTC Mitchell manages the Corps' water resources development and navigable waterways operations for the district that sits astride the Cumberland and Tennessee River basins covering 59,000 square miles and touching seven states, and is comprised of a work force of more than 700 employees. The Cumberland basin operates and maintains ten multi-purpose projects for navigation, flood damage reduction, hydropower, environmental stewardship, and recreation. Nine of these projects generate hydro-electric power.

Scheduled Lock Outages for 2010 Nashville District

April 13 – May 11, 2010 • Chickamauga Lock at Tennessee River Mile 471.0.

June 8 – June 29, 2010 • Melton Lock at Clinch River Mile 23.1.

July 20 – August 10, 2010 • Fort Loudoun Lock at Tennessee River Mile 602.3.

October 12 - November 2, 2010 • Watts Bar Lock at Tennessee River Mile 529.9.

For more information contact:
Jeff Ross, USACE,
Nashville District (615) 736-5607

News About Members



The Tennessee-Tombigbee Water-way Development Authority recently elected officers for 2010. **Governor Haley Barbour** (MS), will serve as Chairman with **Mr. Charlie Williams** (left) serving as Vice-Chairman and **Mr. Bud Phillips** serving as Treasurer.

Several Council members were recently named to the Alabama Inland Waterways and Intermodal Infrastructure Advisory Board including; **Mr. Terah Huckabee**, Parker Towing Company, **Mr. Branson Williams**, PowerSouth, **Mr. Jimmy Lyons**, Alabama State Port Authority, **Mr. Larry Merrihew**, Warrior-Tombigbee Waterways Association and **Mr. Mike Tagert**, Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority.

Mr. Steven A. Burns (right) is now a partner in the Balch & Bingham, LLP law firm located in Birmingham, Alabama. Mr. Burns represents utilities, industrial clients, developers, financial institutions, land owners, waterway users, and businesses.



Mr. William (Bill) Dyer, former President of the Tennessee Valley Towing Company and member of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Council passed away on November 4 in Paducah, Kentucky. Our condolences to his friends and family.



Mr. Bill Satterfield, Balch & Bingham, LLP will retire at the end of this year. However, he will continue with Balch & Bingham as “Counsel” in 2010, including working on state and federal waterways issues.



The bids have been opened and a contractor has been selected for construction on the office building. The contract is scheduled to be signed the first week of January and construction will begin in mid-January. Construction is scheduled to be completed in 120 days. The staff will be experiencing many inconveniences including computer and telephone service outages. In the meantime if you cannot reach a member of the staff on the office numbers please feel free to call Mike Tagert at (662) 769-6454 or Agnes Zaiontz at (662) 574-5794.

**Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway
Development Opportunities Conference**

**Marriott's Grand Hotel
August 24 – 26, 2010
Point Clear, Alabama**

Make your room reservations by calling (251) 928-9201 and ask for the Tenn-Tom block of rooms. Rate: \$149.00.

Reservations for the Conference can be made by calling (662) 328-3286 or email: azaiontz@tenntom.org. Forms can be found on our website: www.tenntom.org

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

January 25 – 27, 2010 ♦ Institute for Trade and Transportation Studies. Freight in the Southeast: A Business Perspective. Memphis, Tennessee. Contact: Bruce Lambert, (540) 455-9882 or bruce@ittsresearch.org

February 11 – 15, 2010 • Miami International Boat Show. For more information contact the Council office (662) 328-0812.

February 24 – 25, 2010 • Coosa-Alabama River Improvement Association Annual meeting. Mobile, Alabama. For more information www.caria.org

March 1 – 3, 2010 ♦ Waterways Council, Inc. Washington, D. C. meeting. Headquarters W Hotel. Contact: Cornel Martin Waterways Council, Inc. (703) 373-2261 or cmartin@vesselalliance.com.

March 9 – 11, 2010 ♦ National Waterways Conference Budget Summit, Washington, D. C. Contact: Carol Wright (703) 243-4090 or carole@waterways.org.

April 14 – 16, 2010 ♦ Inland Rivers Ports and Terminals Inc. annual meeting Mobile, Alabama, Contact: Deirdre McGowan (504) 585-0715 or admin@irpt.net

May 6 – 7, 2010 ♦ Warrior-Tombigbee Waterway Association annual meeting, Perdido Beach, Alabama. Contact Larry Merrihew (251) 431-9055 or warriortom@aol.com.

August 24 – 26, 2010 ♦ Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Opportunities Conference, Marriott's Grand Hotel, Point Clear, Alabama. Contact: Agnes Zaiontz (662) 328-3286 or azaiontz@tenntom.org

September 16, 2010 • Mississippi World Trade Center conference on inter modal transportation. Contact: Dierdre McGowan 1-888-269-6972 insightltd@msn.com