



AREA MARITIME SECURITY COMMITTEE Sector Delaware Bay

PRESS RELEASE

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DELAWARE RIVER PORTS – The Grant Sub-Committee of the Area Maritime Security Committee (AMSC) for U.S. Coast Guard Sector Delaware Bay announced today that preliminary applications are now being accepted for the FY11 and FY09 Port Security Grant Programs (PSGP).

The AMSC has nearly \$15 million in unobligated funds from the FY09 program.

The Department of Homeland Security has not yet released guidance for the FY11 Port Security Grant Program (PSGP). The Sector Delaware Bay Area Maritime Security Committee makes no guarantees that funds will be allocated for a PSGP this year, that any such guidance will be forthcoming, or any guidance that may be published will be similar to that of previous years. However, if funds are made available, the Committee understands that the application process will be greatly accelerated; it is this understanding which is driving this early solicitation for applications.

The PSGP is one of five grant programs that constitute the Department of Homeland Security Infrastructure Protection Program (IPP). The vast bulk of America's critical infrastructure is owned or operated by states, local organizations and the private sector. The funds provided by the PSGP are primarily intended to support the work of increasing port-wide risk management, enhanced domain awareness capabilities through development and implementation of a port-wide Risk Management/ Mitigation and Business Continuity/Resumption of Trade plan to prevent, detect, respond to and recover from attacks involving improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and other non-conventional weapons, as well as training and exercises.

In August of 2008, the AMSC completed the required Strategic Risk Mitigation Plan that will guide investments for security related projects for the next five years. AMSC members are now updating the plan as well as working to improve the security posture of the port by identifying key funding priorities. Through the PSGP, the Committee is poised to evaluate projects proposed by local maritime stakeholders that will address the region's security needs.

"The SRMP has proven to be an effective tool to evaluate and prioritize submitted investment justifications to gain FEMA approval. I look forward to using this rigorous process during this next round of PSGPs to meet both my goals and those of the AMSC Managing Board," said Capt. Meredith L. Austin, Coast Guard Captain of the Port and Federal Maritime Security Coordinator.

The Maritime Exchange for the Delaware River and Bay, which serves as Fiduciary Agent to the AMSC, has established a web site containing specific federal and local guidance for the grant program. The site will also be used for processing applications. See <http://www.maritimedelriv.com/psgp11.htm>.

Applications are due by midnight on April 5, 2011.

The Area Maritime Security Committee for U.S. Coast Guard Sector Delaware Bay is a partnership of federal, state and local law enforcement and intelligence organizations; governmental, regulatory, public safety and emergency management agencies, commercial waterway users and others who are committed to improving the security of the maritime transportation system in the Delaware River and Bay area.

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