

PORT AND SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**PORT OF GREEN BAY RECEIVES \$2 MILLION GRANT
FOR RENARD ISLAND PROJECT**

(Green Bay) – The Port of Green Bay has asked to submit a federal assistance application, the final step before a grant award of \$2 million to assist in the environmental capping and closure of Renard Island located in lower Green Bay. The grant is funded through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), a division of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The funding from the grant will assist Brown County in meeting the goals of closing the island in a safe manner that is protective of human health and the environment. “The county has been working closely with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) to establish a plan that is environmentally sound,” stated Dean Haen, manager of the Port of Green Bay. “Our goal is to close the island using clean dredged materials that will provide a protective barrier on the island.”

Renard Island was constructed in 1978 and used by the United States Army Corps of engineers to deposit contaminated sediments when dredging the navigational channel of Green Bay. Use of the island for storing dredged materials stopped in 1997. “The funding from the GLRI grant will assist the County in properly closing the island while maintaining its structural integrity,” Haen stated. “This will allow the opportunity for the island to be used for recreational purposes in the future as well as the potential for establishing a new nesting habitat for area wildlife.”

(More)

The Renard Island Closure Plan was approved by the WDNR in 2008. “The county is confident that with the additional funding from GLRI we will be able to close the island within the timeframe agreed to with the WDNR,” Haen stated. “We are looking forward to moving the project forward.”

The project is expected to cost \$5 million and additional funding requests of \$3 million have been made by Senator Herb Kohl and Congressman Steve Kagen for United States Army Corps of Engineers to complete the project. The project is expected to take 12 to 18 months to complete.

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