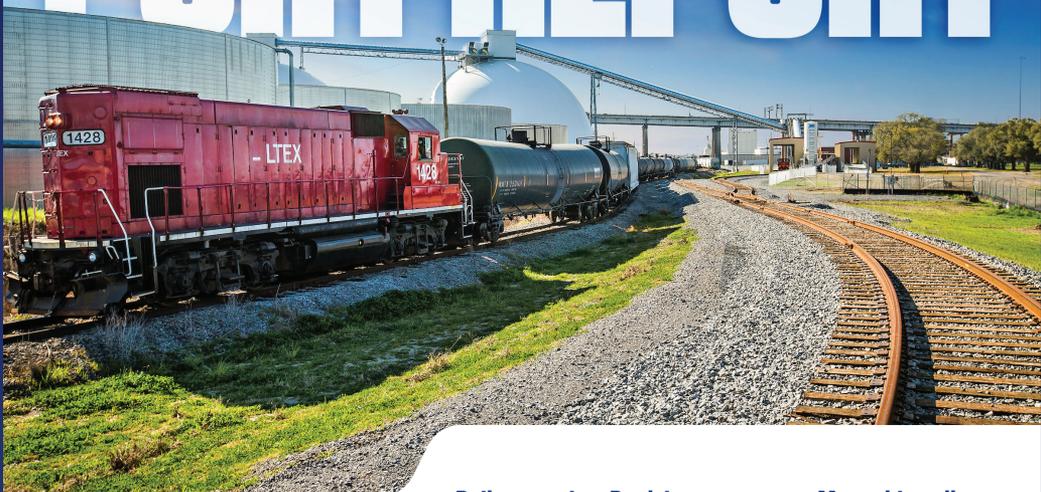


PORT REPORT



Rail expansion. Dock improvements. More ship calls.

A dramatic increase in ship calls per year for the Port prompted long-needed improvements to cargo docks on the Mississippi River in addition to an expansion of rail infrastructure.



Union Pacific Railroad is expanding its interchange tracks along Louisiana Hwy. 1 to be accessed from either the north or south in an \$11 million upgrade, and the Port has plans for a \$20-25 million chambering yard south of the Intracoastal Waterway. The state's Capital Outlay Program will help fund the construction of the chambering yard's three, 110-car tracks to handle Drax Biomass wood pellet trains. In addition, Louis Dreyfus Commodities is continuing its efforts in designing and constructing their \$20 million facility rail tracks to handle 110-car grain trains.

To accommodate **Drax, Louis Dreyfus and Houston-based Genesis Energy**, ongoing dock improvements have upgraded 3,500 feet of deepwater cargo docks with a new fendering system and bigger, stronger mooring hooks.

Port Executive Director **Jay Hardman** reports, "We're busy, so as soon as we finish one improvement, we continue to make plans and try to expand for future needs."



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