

PRESS RELEASE

DATE:

December 10, 2001

FROM:

Dianne Sherwood, Executive Director

CONTACT: 509-493-1655

Effective immediately, the Bingen Point Marina boat ramp/dock and restrooms in Bingen, Washington are temporarily closed to public use. The Klickitat County Port District #1 has begun a construction project to replace the existing single lane boat ramp with a double lane ramp, to include a floating dock down the center for passenger loading and unloading.

The Port views this project not only as a valuable contribution to the community and to recreationists, but also as a cornerstone to the Gorge Harbor Marina project and to future light industrial development at Bingen Point.

As background, the Port began the permit process for this project in 1995, and a permit was issued by the Army Corps of Engineers (CORPS) December 10, 1997. The CORPS has extended the Port's permit, allowing for completion of this project in 2002.

Grant funding was acquired from Washington State's Inter-Agency for outdoor recreation Committee (IAC) on November 16, 2000, in the amount of \$169,762., to the Port's grant match of \$83,616.

Kennedy/Jenks Consultants, from Portland, Oregon, are the Port's engineers for the dock/ramp project, who estimated the project at \$209,025. On November 6, 2001, the six (6) bids received for the project were opened at the Port office, and ranged from a high of \$253,584 to the low bid of \$203,904.98. Betz Construction, Inc., of Hood River, Oregon, was awarded the contract for the low bid of \$203,904.98. The project, exclusive of asphalt paving, will be completed by March 15, 2002.