



JAY HARDMAN

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LOUIS DREYFUS Commodities recently opened its state-of-the-art grain and oilseed export elevator at the port following upgrades totalling \$150 million. Designed to handle up to 5 million metric tons of grains and oilseeds annually, it is Dreyfus' flagship facility on the Mississippi. Area farmers will be providing a significant part of the products and the terminal will employ up to 60. The increase of ship and barge calls to the elevator will present a tremendous opportunity for new cargo movement at the port.

Drax Biomass International Inc. is constructing a storage and export facility at the port for wood pellets, which are used widely in Europe as renewable

energy fuel. The pellets will be transported by rail and truck to the port from north Louisiana and Mississippi and then shipped to overseas markets.

Recently completed rehabilitation projects have put the port's docks and transit sheds in the best condition since they were constructed over 60 years ago. This enables the port to take advantage of future economic growth opportunities associated with increased cargo movement.

The leadership provided by the Port Commission will continue to assure future growth at our deepwater facility and certainly lead to additional economic development opportunities at the Port of Greater Baton Rouge in 2014 and beyond.