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JEFF STRADER JOINS PORT FREEPORT AS CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

FREEPORT, TX (**January 2, 2013**) –Bringing more than 25 years experience in public as well as private sector accounting, finance and auditing, Jeff Strader recently joined Port Freeport as the Chief Financial Officer.

Strader is transitioning from Deputy Executive Director for Finance and Administration and CFO from North Carolina State Ports Authority where he was accountable for the results of the organization's activities, contributed to the development of business strategies and allocated resources for the achievement of the port's strategic plan. He provided oversight, set and implemented policy for the port's treasury management, capital funding programs and financial activities as well as property management functions.

Strader earned his Master of Accounting from the University of North Carolina in 1987 and a Bachelor of Science Degree with a major emphasis in accounting and a minor in computer information systems from Pfeiffer University in 1986. He received his Certified Public Accountant designation in 1991 and is a member of the American Institute of Public Accountants. He and his wife, Cynthia, have two children, Stephen and Lauren.

Port Freeport currently ranks 16th among U.S. ports in international cargo tonnage handled. With a current channel of 45-foot depth, soon to be widened and deepened, just 3 miles from open Gulf of Mexico waters, Port Freeport offers more than 7,500 acres for future development. Port Freeport serves its customers and stakeholders through development and marketing of competitive world-class navigational capabilities, technically advanced marine and multimodal terminal services and port-related industrial facilities while achieving profits and creating jobs as a leading economic catalyst for the Texas Gulf Coast.