A Coastal Perspective On Security

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ABSTRACT

This paper examines security issues from the unique perspective of our nation’s coastlines and associated infrastructure. It surveys ongoing efforts to secure offshore shipping lanes, as well as the transportation systems and huge capital investments on the narrow strip of land intersecting with coastal waters.

The paper will recount the extraordinary demands recently placed on the Coast Guard, port authorities and other agencies charged with security of the nation’s coasts. New federal requirements (e.g., port assessments) continue to be legislated, while solutions to funding are still unfolding. An up-to-date summary of maritime security functions will be provided.

Those requirements will be compared and contrasted with security guidelines and regulatory demands placed upon mobile and fixed assets of the Chemical Process Industry (CPI) in coastal environs. These span the gamut from recommendations by industry groups (ACC) and professional organizations (CCPS), to federal and state requirements (DoT, TxEQ), to insurance demands, to general duty obligations.