



**US Army Corps
of Engineers** ®
Galveston District

News Release

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Corps, GLO improve permitting process for Pier Regional General Permits

GALVESTON, Texas - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District, and the Texas General Land Office (GLO) entered into a cooperative agreement Sept. 21, 2009, to facilitate the permit evaluation process for Pier Regional General Permits or Pier GP. The cooperative agreement improves the permitting process by providing the regulated public a single agency to apply to, reducing duplication between the two permitting programs. This milestone was reached by the Permit Assistance Group, an interagency team created by the Coastal Coordination Council.

The purpose of this cooperative agreement is to authorize the GLO to verify the Corps' Pier GP for projects located in state-owned submerged lands along the Texas coast. Permit applicants whose pier projects qualify may apply to the GLO for both their state easement and their Corps authorization. This cooperative agreement is similar to a previous agreement which authorizes the GLO to administer Oil Field Development General Permits for projects located offshore Texas.

The Corps has regulatory jurisdiction over activities in waters of the U.S. under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The GLO has authority to execute and perform all acts and other things relating to public real property of the state or rights of individuals in public real property which is required by law, and requires lease agreements for structures on state-owned lands.

For more information, contact the GLO at (512) 463-2716 or the Corps' Galveston District at (409) 766-3925. Visit the Corps Pier GP Web site, <http://www.swg.usace.army.mil/reg/permitgp/general.asp>.