

"Urban's expedited efforts helped the DRPA meet a strict deadline for the scheduled arrival of a large cruise ship."

Client: Delaware River Port Authority (DRPA)

Pier 2 at the former Philadelphia Naval Yard is home to the Philadelphia Cruise Terminal, the only facility on the Delaware River equipped to accommodate commercial cruise ships. A docking operation, which allegedly damaged the outshore end of the pier and left it unsafe for berthing vessels, created an urgent situation as incoming cruise ships were scheduled to arrive.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Permits
- Fast Track Design
- Construction Management

Within one hour of receiving a request from the Delaware River Port Authority (DRPA) to determine the extent of the damage, Urban Engineers (Urban) had personnel on site, and had subcontractor Dryden Diving initiate an emergency underwater inspection within five hours. Urban provided a follow-up survey to gather more detail about the condition of the pier and prepared a report with preliminary recommendations and cost estimates.

DRPA engaged Urban to obtain the required waterfront development permit, prepare fast-track designs, and handle construction management services for the repair of Pier 2 and install a breasting dolphin outshore and adjacent to the head of the finger pier.

Prior to the alleged incident that damaged Pier 2, Urban, as part of a design-build contract with W.H. Streit, Marine Contractors, undertook a \$1.5 million project to design a mooring dolphin and connecting walkway, 150-feet outshore of Pier 2. The breasting and mooring dolphins are categorized as "rigid" and consist of a group of pilings driven into the water and capped with concrete. The ships rest against a rubber fender installed on the face of the concrete cap of the breasting dolphin with bow or stern lines secured to the mooring dolphin.



Urban had a strict deadline to accommodate the arrival of the first cruise ship, the 86,000-ton, 963-foot-long, Carnival Legend. The design and construction effort was critical in that timely completion would secure a contract from Carnival for continued visits in the coming year. The pier improvements were part of an overall effort to upgrade the cruise ship terminal and attract additional cruise lines.

Thanks in part to Urban's efforts, the Carnival Legend berthed as scheduled and was able to set sail for Bermuda the next day.