

Business move to NC ports a ‘no-brainer’

By Susan N. Pridgen, Communications Department



Mike Gawinski, center, President of Rulmeca Corporation, is joined by Rob Frazier, left, Port Manager for ICL – Wilmington and Peter Klaus, Ports Authority’s Vice President of Liner Sales onboard the INDEPENDENT ACCORD July 22. This was Mr. Gawinski first time to the Port and first time on an ICL ship. While aboard he was able to meet the captain and chief and watch the container operation. Photo by Susan N. Pridgen

On July 22, Mike Gawinski, President of Rulmeca Corporation, toured the Port of Wilmington to see how the facility and our team can best benefit the Wilmington-based company. Rulmeca Corporation produces motorized pulleys used for handling bulk materials such as salt, ore, and coal in harsh operating conditions including mines, ports, quarries, terminals, phosphate plants, and power plants.

“Our visit went very well,” said Gawinski. “I was given the opportunity to tour the container handling area of the Port of Wilmington and meet the Donna Jones, Manager of Container

Operations. I also went onboard an ICL vessel, met the captain and chief, watched cargo being unloaded, visited Cape Fear Bonded Warehouse, and watched trucks as they cleared in and out of the port,” said Gawinski.

Rulmeca has been using the Port of Charleston and the Saint Lawrence Seaway for years, but when he learned about ICL’s Antwerp-to-Wilmington service, Gawinski decided to switch their routing. After learning of the Port of Wilmington’s quick turnaround times, Mike said the decision to switch was a ‘no brainer’ as he would be able to reduce their door-to-door delivery time by one to two weeks.

“It is always a good day when the NC Ports’ cargo carrier services, like ICL, help a global business in North Carolina to improve their global supply-chain, reduce logistics cost and hopefully become more profitable,” said Jimmy Yokeley, Director of Community Economic Development. “This goes a long way to help companies like Rulmeca, and so many others in North Carolina who are dependent on the global economy for success, to retain and grow jobs.”