The United States Coast Guard has approved the application submitted by the St. George Lighthouse Association requesting that the Cape St. George Light be designated as a private aid to navigation. This means that the light will be lighted once again!

The approval was contingent upon a site visit by the Aids to Navigation Detachment from Coast Guard Station Panama City, whose mission was to determine if any residences would be affected by the light, or if any other issues regarding public safety were involved. A USCG team led by Chief Petty Officer Andrew J. White visited the lighthouse on March 25.

Because the focal plane of the light at 71 feet exceeds the residential approximate height limit of 46 feet, it was determined that island residences should not be affected by the light. Since the light is intended to shine 13 miles out over the Gulf and not down on the beach, nesting sea turtles would not be affected. One area of concern, however, was traffic crossing the bridge onto the island, where the height of the "big hump" is close to the elevation of the light.

Chief White agreed to bring one of the department's lights to test at the lighthouse before installation of the permanent light begins. Meanwhile, the St. George Lighthouse Association has placed an order with Vega Industries Limited of New Zealand for a VLB-44 beacon, which is commonly used in USCG installations. The light, which is custom manufactured, should arrive in about eight weeks.

Unlike the large third order Fresnel lens which was at one time installed in the lighthouse, the modern optic will allow enough space for visitors to continue to climb to the lantern room.

So, after some tweaking and adjustments to make the light compatible with island residents and traffic, THE CAPE ST. GEORGE LIGHT WILL SHINE AGAIN!