

Chesapeake “Texas Tower” Timeline

(Located 13 miles east of Virginia Beach, 14.5 miles ESE of Cape Henry, VA)

- 1933-1965** Light vessel *Chesapeake* and five other light vessels mark the entrance to the Chesapeake Bay.
- 1965** *Chesapeake* decommissioned. New ultra modern lighthouse, an adaptation of an offshore oil drilling platform is constructed by the Tidewater-Raymond-Kiewit Company of Norfolk, the same company building the Chesapeake Bay-Bridge-Tunnel. Light is 117 feet above the Bay. A rotating crew of six CG keepers maintain the 6,000,000 candlepower, dual-intensity xenon light. Tower light 37 feet above helicopter deck. Light visible 24 miles. Fog signal – 10 miles. Radio beacon – 70 miles.
- May 1980** Three-phased automation process begins. Phase I-automatic equipment installed & tested.
- July 1980** Phase II – Automation power room built.
- Sept. 1980** Phase III – Windows secured. Security latches installed and excess equipment removed.
- 1989** Coast Guard paints tower.
- 2002-2003** Graduate students from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County conduct NASA satellite testing (ground truthing) and research from lighthouse. Lighthouse remains active aid to navigation.
- 2004** Coast Guard considers decommissioning and dismantling lighthouse. Performs inspection, declares tower structurally sound. Light remains in active service.

Source: *Bay Beacons* by Linda Turbyville, *Lighting the Bay: Tales of Chesapeake Lighthouses* by Pat Vojtech, *Lighthouses and Lifesaving Stations of Virginia* by Patrick Evans-Hylton and *Buffalo News*, November 17, 2002.