

Calumet Harbor and River, Illinois and Indiana

Economic Benefits of Harbor Maintenance

Quick Facts:

- Calumet is the third busiest harbor on the Great Lakes (by tonnage).
- Calumet is one of only two harbors on the Great Lakes with rail lines that receive coal from Western states.
- Shipments at Calumet provide almost \$300 million in direct sales revenue and support over 2,000 jobs.
- Transporting goods on waterways reduces the need for truck and train shipments, reducing air emissions, congestion and wear on road and rail networks.
- To maintain safe and efficient navigation, an average of 50,000 cubic yards of sediment is dredged from Calumet each year.

An average of **13.2 million tons** has been moved annually at Calumet Harbor and River since 2003. The harbor serves as a critical link between the deep-draft Great Lakes Navigation System and the shallow-draft Illinois Waterway and Mississippi River Systems. To maintain safe and efficient navigation, the harbor is dredged regularly. This ongoing maintenance provides cost savings to shippers and supports commercial activity at the harbor.

Project Overview

Commodities are shipped through Calumet Harbor and River via deep-draft (greater than 12 feet) and shallow-draft vessels. While commodity shipments fluctuated due to the recession that began in 2007, annual cargo totals remained consistently high and always exceed 10.5 million tons. Two thirds of the total cargo is shipped on deep-draft vessels.

Coal is the most abundant commodity moved at Calumet Harbor and River, accounting for 4.4 million tons in 2011. The project is one of two key transition points from railway to waterborne transportation along the Great Lakes' western coast. Calumet and Duluth-Superior Harbor, MN and WI are the only two harbors with railways that receive coal from the west for transfer to waterborne transportation. Other major commodities include iron and steel products, limestone, and cement.

Operating and Maintaining the Harbor

To maintain navigation depths, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) dredges an average of 50,000 cubic yards of sediment from the channel each year. As a result of the harbor's industrial history, some of this sediment is contaminated and must be confined. The material is placed in a confined disposal



Economic Benefits

Calumet Harbor and River provides economic benefits not only to the region, but also to the nation. Regionally, shipments at the harbor provide an annual average of almost \$300 million in direct sales and business revenue and directly support over 2,000 jobs.

Nationally, waterway maintenance supports the efficient transportation of goods, allowing shippers to use maximum depths. Waterborne shipments also use fewer resources than trucks or trains, increasing the efficiency of getting commodities from producers to consumers across the nation. Estimated transportation cost savings associated with harbor maintenance are approximately \$5 million each year. Reduced fuel usage also reduces emissions and air pollution associated with shipments.

Other benefits include reduced congestion and wear and tear on area roadways and rail networks as waterborne shipments reduce the need for truck and rail transportation.

facility (CDF), which safely isolates it and prevents impacts to human health and the environment.

Dredged material is currently placed in the Chicago Area CDF, which is located at the mouth of the Calumet River. The facility has reached the original design storage capacity. USACE is pursuing three strategies for future dredged material management: sediment source reduction, beneficial use, and confined disposal. Because some sediment within the port remains contaminated, a new facility will be needed as part of the management strategy. Construction of such a facility would have both Federal and non-Federal requirements. For example, lands and a portion of the construction costs must be provided by a non-Federal sponsor.



**US Army Corps
of Engineers
Chicago District**

For more information contact: Monica Ott, Project Manager, 312-846-5591, monica.a.ott@usace.army.mil