



# Lake Carriers' Association

## For Immediate Release

June 15, 2009

### Lakes Coal Trade Struggles Again in May

CLEVELAND—Coal shipments on the Great Lakes continued to reflect the state of the economy in May. Loadings totaled 3.6 million tons, a decrease of 17 percent compared to a year ago.

Only one dock, Superior Midwest Energy Terminal in Superior, Wisconsin, surpassed its total of a year ago. SMET shipped 2.4 million tons, an increase of about 70,000 tons. Interestingly enough, that increase – 70,000 tons – is what a 1,000-foot-long U.S.-Flag laker should carry each trip. However, because the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has failed to maintain the Great Lakes Navigation System to project dimensions (the width and depth specified by Congress for various ports and waterways), the largest cargo loaded at SMET in May was 66,614 tons.

Other coal ports that shipped in May saw their loadings fall by about 30 percent. Two docks did not load any coal in May.

For the year, coal shipments stand at 7.3 million tons, a decrease of 35 percent compared to a year ago.

Lake Carriers' Association represents 18 American companies that operate 65 U.S.-Flag vessels on the Great Lakes and carry the raw materials that drive the nation's economy: Iron ore and fluxstone for the steel industry, limestone, and cement for the construction industry, coal for power generation.... Collectively, these vessels can transport more than 115 million tons of cargo a year when high water offsets lack of adequate dredging. More information is available at [www.lcaships.com](http://www.lcaships.com).

Source: Lake Carriers' Association.

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Information based on data from knowledgeable sources. However, accuracy cannot be guaranteed. Lake Carriers' Association assumes no legal responsibility for the outcome of decisions or commitments made on the basis of this information. This report represents the views of Lake Carriers' Association and may not necessarily represent the views of its individual members.

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***The Association Representing Operators of U.S.-Flag Vessels on the Great Lakes***

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