



# Lake Carriers' Association

## For Immediate Release

September 21, 2005

### Summer Heat Keeps Demand Strong

## Great Lakes Coal Shipments Rise 12 Percent in August

Cleveland---Continued strong demand for coal for power generation pushed shipments on the Great Lakes to nearly 5 million net tons in August, an increase of 12 percent compared to a year ago. The August coal float also represents an increase of 4 percent weighed against the month's 5-year average.

Through August, the Great Lakes coal trade stands at 26.4 million net tons. Again, the 2005 year-to-date total represents significant increases compared to a year ago and the trade's 5-year average. Coal loadings are nearly 10 percent ahead of last year's pace and up more than 7 percent over the 5-year average.

Also notable is the fact that shipments of eastern coal have rebounded from 2004 levels. However, that segment of the trade still lags behind its 5-year average, a reflection of growing reliance on low-sulfur western coal at a number of utilities in the Great Lakes basin.

Lake Carriers' Association represents 12 American corporations that operate 55 U.S.-Flag vessels on the Great Lakes. These vessels 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 transport as much as 125 million tons of cargo a year.

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

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