



Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

November 27, 2007

Lakes Coal Trade Down 16 Percent in September

CLEVELAND—Shipments of coal on the Great Lakes slowed considerably in September. Loadings totaled 3.7 million net tons, a decrease of approximately 16 percent compared to both a year ago and the month's 5-year average.

While such a significant drop is reflective of demand, the dredging crisis and low water levels were also a factor. Not even one coal cargo loaded on Lake Superior topped 65,000 tons, but the 1,000-foot-long U.S.-Flag Lakers in this trade have carried nearly 71,000 tons in a single trip when high water levels offset the lack of dredging.

A smaller U.S.-Flag Laker had to trim nearly 900 tons from its payload when moving coal from Lake Superior to a Canadian power plant on Lake Erie.

For the year, the Lakes coal trade stands at 27.3 million tons, a decrease of 8 percent compared to the same point in 2006. Compared to the 5-year average, shipments are more than 6 percent off the pace.

Lake Carriers' Association represents 18 American corporations that operate 63 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 can transport as much as 125 million tons of cargo a year when high water levels offset the lack of adequate dredging of Great Lakes ports and waterways. More information is available at 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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GLF GREAT LAKES FLEET CORP. • GRAND RIVER NAVIGATION COMPANY, INC. • GREAT LAKES FLEET, INC. / KEY LAKES, INC. • HMC SHIP MANAGEMENT LTD.
INLAND LAKES MANAGEMENT, INC. • THE INTERLAKE STEAMSHIP COMPANY • KK INTEGRATED LOGISTICS • LAKE MICHIGAN CARFERRY SERVICE, INC.
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