



# Lake Carriers' Association

## For Immediate Release

December 16, 2009

### Lakes Coal Loadings Slip 20 Percent in November

CLEVELAND—Coal shipments on the Great Lakes totaled 3.2 million net tons in November, a decrease of 20.5 percent compared to the previous month, and 15.6 percent below the level of a year ago.

Only two ports, Thunder Bay, Ontario and Toledo, Ohio exceeded their total of a year ago.

The biggest fall-off came in loadings of western coal at Superior Midwest Energy Terminal ("SMET") in Superior, Wisconsin. Shipments were down nearly 30 percent compared to a year ago. While there were some vessel availability issues, SMET, and the other coal-loading facilities, continue to be impacted by generally low demand from utilities.

Year-to-date, coal shipments stand at 27.5 million tons, a decrease of 23.7 percent compared to a year ago. The trade is 25 percent off the 5-year average for the January-November timeframe.

Lake Carriers' Association represents 18 American companies that operate 55 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.

Contact: Glen G. Nekvasil, Vice President - Corporate Communications (440-333-9996).

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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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Suite 720 ♦ 20325 Center Ridge Rd. ♦ Rocky River, Ohio 44116-3572 ♦ Fax: 440-333-9993 ♦  
[www.lcaships.com](http://www.lcaships.com)

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

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