



Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

January 8, 2010

Slow December Caps Disappointing Year for Lakes Coal Trade

CLEVELAND—A significant slowdown in coal shipments in December brought down the curtain on a difficult year for the Great Lakes coal trade. Loadings in December totaled only 2.3 million tons, a decrease of 28 percent compared to November, and a drop of 37 percent compared to a year ago.

Only one port registered an increase in loadings in December. Toledo, Ohio saw its shipments increase 140,000 tons compared to a year ago. In terms of decreases, the largest came at Superior, Wisconsin, where loadings fell by almost 800,000 tons.

For the year, coal shipments finished at 29,924,432 tons, a decrease of 25 percent compared to a year ago, and a dip of nearly 27 percent compared to the trade's 5-year average. The last time the coal trade slipped below 30 million tons was in 1932, when loadings totaled 24,857,369 tons. The record for the trade is 60,563,530 tons, shipped in 1948.

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.

Source: Lake Carriers' Association.

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

-30-

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.

Suite 720 ♦ 20325 Center Ridge Rd. ♦ Rocky River, Ohio 44116-3572 ♦ Fax: 440-333-9993 ♦
www.lcaships.com

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

AMERICAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY • ANDRIE, INC. • ARMSTRONG STEAMSHIP COMPANY • BELL STEAMSHIP COMPANY • CENTRAL MARINE LOGISTICS, INC.
GRAND RIVER NAVIGATION COMPANY, INC. • GREAT LAKES FLEET / KEY LAKES, INC. • INLAND LAKES MANAGEMENT, INC. • THE INTERLAKE STEAMSHIP COMPANY
KK INTEGRATED LOGISTICS • LAKE MICHIGAN CARFERRY SERVICE, INC. • LAKES SHIPPING COMPANY, INC. • PERE MARQUETTE SHIPPING COMPANY
PORT CITY MARINE SERVICES • PORT CITY STEAMSHIP COMPANY • SOO MARINE SUPPLY, INC. • UPPER LAKES TOWING COMPANY, INC. • VANENKEVORT TUG & BARGE, INC.