



Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

June 8, 2007

Big Drop in Lakes Limestone Trade in May

Cleveland---Shipments of limestone on the Great Lakes fell sharply in May. Loadings totaled 4.4 million net tons, a decrease of 15 percent compared to a year ago, and a drop of nearly 8 percent compared to the month's 5-year average.

A number of factors influenced the May total. Lack of adequate dredging affected the amount of limestone vessels could deliver. Huron, Ohio, is a prime example. A vessel operator that averaged more than 25,000 tons each delivery a few years ago saw some loads fall well below 24,000 tons in May, even though the water level on Lake Erie is higher than when a typical cargo topped 25,000 tons. There are no Federal funds to dredge Huron in 2007.

Three mid-sized U.S.-Flag Lakers that carry limestone have been idled since early May by a labor dispute. Further contributing to the decrease is the slow economy in Michigan. It is reported that weak demand has prompted some quarries that ship only by land to reduce prices and expand their range of service.

Through May, limestone shipments stand at 7.9 million tons, a decrease of 17 percent compared to a year ago, and 8 percent off the 5-year average for the January-May timeframe.

Great Lakes Limestone Trade: May 2002-2007 and 5-Year Average

(net tons)

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Average 2002-2006
U.S. Ports	3,582,172	3,161,413	3,837,843	4,066,583	4,103,305	3,498,762	3,750,263
Canadian Ports	826,504	904,296	1,089,572	1,073,064	1,004,485	869,900	979,584
Total	4,408,676	4,065,709	4,927,415	5,139,647	5,109,796	4,370,669	4,729,847

Great Lakes Limestone Trade: Year-To-Date 2002-2007 and 5-Year Average

(net tons)

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Average 2002-2006
U.S. Ports	6,571,332	5,074,264	7,415,025	7,606,216	7,414,067	6,334,077	6,631,936
Canadian Ports	1,439,659	1,354,332	2,082,819	1,997,392	2,103,726	1,574,775	1,721,913
Total	8,010,991	6,428,596	9,497,844	9,603,608	9,519,799	7,910,859	8,353,849

U.S. ports: Calcite, MI, Cedarville, MI, Drummond Island, MI, Kellys Island, OH, Marblehead, OH, Port Inland, MI and Presque Isle, MI. Canadian ports: Bruce Mines, Manitoulin Island, Port Colborne, and Smelter Bay (all Ontario). Port Colborne is not expected to ship in 2007.

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.

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Information based on data sources believed to be reliable. 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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