2012 COAL TRADE

Shipments of coal totaled 25,347,709 tons in 2012, a decrease of 8.2 percent compared to 2011. The trade was 25 percent off its 5-year average.

At 15.1 million tons, shipments from Lake Superior ports were just about even with 2011. Included in that total were 1.3 million tons shipped to Québec City for loading into oceangoing vessels and delivery overseas.

Loadings at Chicago terminals totaled 3.2 million tons, a decrease of 14.5 percent from 2011, but a slight increase over their 5-year average.

Shipments from Lake Erie ports totaled 7 million tons, a decrease of nearly 19 percent compared to 2011.

The impacts of falling water levels and lack of adequate dredging were clearly evident as the year came to a close. The largest coal cargo shipped through the locks at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, in December totaled 62,043 tons. The largest coal cargo passing through the locks during 2012 was 64,706 tons. When near record-high water levels in the late 1990s offset lack of dredging, a U.S.-flag laker was able to carry nearly 71,000 tons in a single trip.

GREAT LAKES COAL SHIPMENTS 2007-2012 AND 5-YEAR AVERAGE

(net tons)

			,				AVERAGE
PORT / DOCK	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2007-2011
Superior, WI							
Superior Midwest Energy Terminal .	20,375,015	22,354,161	18,227,021	17,967,646	14,285,053	14,258,905	18,641,780
Thunder Bay, ON							
Canadian National	1,388,503	1,700,308	945,328	1,184,003	913,099	836,416	1,226,249
TOTAL – LAKE SUPERIOR	21,763,518	24,054,469	19,172,349	19,151,649	15,198,152	15,095,321	19,868,029
Chicago, IL							
KCBX Terminals Company	2,721,860	2,808,875	1,368,202	1,847,757	2,910,732	2,360,056	2,331,486
Chicago Fuels Terminal	839,741	541,857	841,769	761,288	884,713	883,378	773,874
TOTAL – LAKE MICHIGAN	3,561,601	3,350,732	2,209,971	2,609,045	3,795,445	3,243,434	3,105,360
Toledo, OH							
CSX	3,192,774	3,187,296	3,218,291	4,058,657	3,596,664	2,314,682	3,450,737
Sandusky, OH							
Norfolk Southern	3,884,011	3,211,542	1,947,759	3,070,044	2,942,869	3,032,083	3,011,245
Ashtabula, OH							
Norfolk Southern	4,347,508	4,640,435	3,242,316	3,092,751	2,082,986	1,662,189	3,481,200
Conneaut, OH							
Bessemer & Lake Erie	2,251,985	1,084,189	0	0	0	0	667,235
Buffalo, NY							
Gateway Trade Center	259,141	261,827	83,745	0	0	0	120,943
TOTAL – LAKE ERIE	13,935,419	12,385,289	8,492,111	10,221,452	8,622,519	7,008,954	10,731,360
TOTAL – ALL LAKES	39,260,538	39,790,490	29,874,431	31,982,146	27,616,116	25,347,709	33,704,749