

PORT AND SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT

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LOW WATER LEVELS IMPACT PORT OF GREEN BAY EFFICIENCIES

Port manager testifies at Congressional subcommittee and requests action

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 18, 2008

(Green Bay) – “For the past 5 to 6 years the Port of Green Bay has been operating at water levels 12 to 24 inches below normal, which has affected fuel and cost efficiencies of the ships coming in,” stated port manager Dean Haen during his testimony at today’s Congressional subcommittee hearing on the concern over declining water levels in the Great Lakes.

According to Haen, for every inch of water unavailable, a ship must decrease its cargo by 100 tons. “This means that ships entering the port today are leaving anywhere from 1,200 to 2,400 tons of cargo behind,” Haen stated. “Leaving cargo behind means more tips to Green Bay, higher costs to users and consumers and puts businesses at risk of not receiving their raw materials before the shipping season closes for winter.”

Although the economic impact of the port declined slightly from 2006, the shipping industry continues to be the most cost effective method of transportation for commodities and employment opportunities for the region. Since 1999, the total economic output of the port has increased by more than \$20 million and the number of port supported jobs has increased by 57 percent (260 jobs).

In addition to his testimony, Haen also requested that further research be conducted to determine the exact causes of declining water levels. “If additional research determines that manmade efforts have lowered lake levels then corrective efforts must be made to reverse the effects,” Haen commented.

Along with concerns over low water levels, Haen also expressed the need for the Federal government to address continued concern over ballast water and invasive species. “Congress needs to solve the aquatic invasive species problem that is tainting our industry’s perception and ability to grow,” Haen stated. “This can’t be regulated by each state. The Port industry endorses a strong, uniform federal approach to the protection of the Great Lakes - and all U.S. waters - from invasive species through ballast water.”

(more)

The Port of Green Bay has 13 active terminal operators involved in shipping commodities, including:

Active Terminal Operators

C. Reiss Coal Company	KK Intergrated Logistics, Inc.
Construction Resource Management	LaFarge North America
Flint Hills Resources	Leicht Transfer & Storage Company
Fox River Dock Company	Sanimax
Georgia Pacific Corporation	Semfuel, L.P.
Great Lakes Calcium Corporation	St. Mary's Cement Company
	Western Lime Corporation

Commodities shipped by these terminal operators include:

2007 Shipped Commodities*

Coal 45 %
Limestone 27%
Cement 15%
Salt 9%
Fuel oil .67%
Pig iron 1%
Wood pulp .21%
Liquid asphalt .26%

*commodity percentage of total tonnage.

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