



US Army Corps
of Engineers ®



Burns Waterway Harbor, IN

Harbor Features

- Located on Lake Michigan in the city of Portage, Lake County, Indiana
- Authorization: Rivers & Harbors Act of 1965
- Authorized depths are 30 feet in the approach channel, 28 feet in the outer harbor, and 27 feet in both harbor arms.
- 9.2M tons of material are shipped or received in 2019; ranked 7th among the Great Lakes ports and 55th among U.S. ports
- Harbor is interconnected with 21 commercial ports: ships cargo to 6 ports and receives from 18 ports
- 5,830 linear feet of rubble mound breakwater structures
- 2.5 miles of federal channel combined within the approach, outer harbor, and east and west arms
- Major stakeholders include U.S. Coast Guard, Cleveland-Cliffs Inc., Tanco Terminals, and 25 other tenants - 14 of which are steel-related industries.

Project Requirements

- Approximately 80,000 cubic yards of sand needs to be removed annually from the approach channel during the permitted dredging window of July 1 to October 15.
- Maintenance dredging of the approach channel is typically needed annually. In 2020, approximately 78K cubic yards of sediment was dredged from the approach channel, including 45K cubic yards placed on the severely eroded Indiana Dunes National Park beach in cooperation with NPS. Annual maintenance dredging is scheduled to take place in 2021.
- Development of long-term regional sediment management alternatives could reduce the need to dredge.



- The rubble mound breakwater is the harbor's only protective structure. Stone repairs to three sections, totaling 600 feet overall, will be completed in 2020.
- Scour occurring within the harbor arms has been observed and threatens the stability of adjacent structures. Repairs were performed in 2017, 2018, 2019, and will continue in 2020.

Consequences of Not Maintaining the Project

- Light loading: losses of between 2 and 3 feet of channel depth would increase transportation costs between \$3.9M and \$7.2M annually.
- If the harbor were closed to commercial traffic, commodities would have to be transported by rail and truck. This would increase annual emission rates by nearly 35,727 tons of harmful particulate matter (PM-10) and increase costs by \$16.0M due to increased railroad related accidents, and \$10.7M due to increased trucking related accidents.

Transportation Importance

- Commodities are iron ore, steel products, limestone, grain, chemicals, fertilizers, and coal. The port handles over 15% of all U.S. steel trade with Europe.
- The harbor provides safe refuge for inland river barges traveling between Gary Harbor, Indiana Harbor, and Calumet Harbor.
- Waterborne transportation facilitated by the harbor supports \$406.6M in business revenue, 1,792 direct, indirect, and induced jobs, and \$130.4M in labor income to the transportation sector.
- Commodities handled by the harbor support \$14.8B in business revenue, 80,106 direct, indirect, and induced jobs, and \$4.2B in labor income.
- Cleveland-Cliffs Inc.’s Burns Harbor facility is one of the largest steelmaking facilities in North America. It operates two blast furnaces, has a total raw steelmaking capability of about 5.0M tons annually, and primarily serves the automotive industry. Principal products made are hot-rolled, cold-rolled, and coated-sheet products. Other markets served include appliances, construction, energy, line pipe, machinery service centers, shipbuilding, and rail cars.

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fiscal Year (FY) 2019, 2020, and 2021
Burns Waterway Harbor, IN - Project Requirements and President’s Budget (\$1,000)**

Work Package	FY19 Requirement	FY19 Appropriation	FY20 Requirement	FY20 Appropriation	FY21 Requirement	FY21 Appropriation
Project Condition Surveys	194	194	239	177	243	181
Real Estate Management	13	13	21	17	22	18
Maintenance Dredging Approach Channel – Primary Work Package	1,487	1,487	1,263	1,263	1,354	1,354
Scour Hole Repairs (Gov’t Floating Plant)	2,925	2,925	2,878	2,878	2,914	2,914
TOTAL	4,619	4,619	4,401	4,335	4,533	4,467

Congressional Interests

- Representative Frank Mrvan D-IN-1
- Senator Todd Young R-IN
- Senator Mike Braun R-IN