



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.
- Deep draft commercial harbor.
- 8.5M tons of cargo shipped/received in 2021.
- Ranks 7th among the Great Lakes 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.
- 2.5 miles of federal channel within the approach, outer harbor, 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

- The removal of 70-80K cubic yards of sand is needed biennially from the approach channel.
- Current sediment backlog volume is 9K cubic yards within the harbor channel alone, and 667K cubic yards with the advance maintenance area. Advance maintenance area dredging is necessary to ensure harbor channel reliability throughout the season.
- Available depth losses within the channel center half-width range from 1 ft along the western edge of the west arm to 2 ft along the northern edge of the outer harbor, and 2 to 3 ft in the east harbor arm.



- 80K cubic yards of maintenance dredging was completed in the approach channel and advance maintenance area in FY22 and was placed in the near-shore of the Indiana Dunes National Park.
- Development of long-term regional sediment management alternatives may reduce present channel maintenance requirements.
- The rubble mound breakwater is the harbor's only protective structure. Stone replacement to three sections (600 feet overall) was completed in the fall of 2020.
- Scour occurring within the harbor arms has been observed and threatens the stability of adjacent structures. Repairs were performed in 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and completed in 2023.

Consequences of Not Maintaining the Project

- Light loading: losses of between 2 and 3 feet of channel depth would increase transportation costs between \$4.5M and \$8.7M 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 71.5M lbs. of harmful particulate matter (PM-10) and increase costs by \$16M 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) 2023, 2024, and 2025
Burns Waterway Harbor, IN – Project Requirements and President’s Budget (\$1,000)**

Work Package	FY23 Requirement	FY23 Appropriation	FY24 Requirement	FY24 Appropriation	FY25 Requirement	FY25 President’s Budget
Project Condition Surveys	190	190	183	183	206	206
Real Estate Management	19	19	19	19	21	21
Maintenance Dredging Approach Channel – Primary Work Package	1,520	0	1,565	1,565	0	0
Scour Hole Repairs (Gov’t Floating Plant)	2,000	2,000	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	3,729	2,209	1,767	1,767	227	227

Congressional Interests

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