



Indiana Harbor and Canal, IN

Harbor Features

- Located on Lake Michigan in the city of East Chicago, Lake County, Indiana
- Authorized depths are 29 feet in the approach channel, 28 feet in the turning basin, 27 feet in the outer dock area, and 22 feet within the main and two branch channels
- Deep draft commercial harbor
- 4.7 miles of federal channel combined within the Indiana Harbor canal, the Calumet River branch, and the Lake George branch
- 3,085 linear feet of laid-up stone and concrete caisson breakwater structures
- Sediment from the harbor is placed within a confined disposal facility (CDF). The total design capacity for storage was 3.2M cubic yards (phase I) and will be 4.8M cubic yards when Phase II is completed in 2024.
- 11.5M tons of cargo shipped/received in 2021. Ranks 5th among the Great Lakes ports.
- Interconnected with 18 commercial ports: ships to 10 ports, and receives from 16 ports
- Major stakeholders: Cleveland-Cliffs Inc., US Gypsum, BP, and LaFarge Cement

Project Requirements

- The harbor channel was not maintained between 1972 and 2012 and resumed when the CDF was completed. A sediment backlog of approximately 1.7M cubic yards was removed through 2020.
- Sediment accumulation rates for the port range between 60-100K cubic yards annually.
- Current sediment backlog within the federal channel areas is 100K cubic yards.
- Federal and non-federal channel maintenance was last performed in 2020. 125K cubic yards of sediment was placed within the CDF.
- Channel maintenance was suspended in FY21 to initiate CDF perimeter dike modification and will resume in FY24 after completion.



- Modification to the perimeter dikes was needed to add sediment storage capacity for future harbor dredging. Phase II dikes construction, increasing the height by 11 ft, began in 2021 and was completed in 2024.
- CDF groundwater pumping is performed continually to protect regional groundwater resources by maintaining an inward gradient as required by the facility operating permit.
- A multiyear effort to encapsulate the easterly breakwater with armor stone was completed in 2019 by government floating plant. No further breakwater maintenance is pending.

Consequences of Not Maintaining the Project

- Light loading losses of between 2-3 feet of channel depth results in increased transportation costs of between \$4.6M and \$8.7M annually.
- If the harbor were closed to commercial traffic, commodities would be transported by rail and truck. This would increase annual emission rates by over 97.8M lbs. of harmful particulate matter (PM-10) and increase costs by \$21.9M due to increased railroad related accidents, and \$14.6M due to increased trucking related accidents.

Transportation Importance

- Cleveland-Cliffs Inc.’s Indiana Harbor facility is one of the largest steelmaking complexes in North America. It is fully integrated, currently operating three blast furnaces, and has a total raw steelmaking capability of 10M tons annually. It produces hot-rolled, cold-rolled, hot-dipped galvanized and aluminized sheet products. Markets served include automotive, appliance, contractor applications, distribution, strip converters, and tubular.
- Commodities include iron ore, limestone, coke, gypsum, steel, cement, concrete, petroleum products, and miscellaneous bulk products.
- Waterborne transportation facilitated by the harbor supports \$614.1M in business revenue, 2,706 direct, indirect, and induced jobs, and \$197M in labor income to the transportation sector.
- Commodities handled by the harbor support \$17.9B in business revenue, 95,043 direct, indirect, and induced jobs, and \$5.0B in labor income.

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, 2024, and 2025
Indiana 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	215	215	210	210	234	234
Real Estate Management	41	41	42	42	44	44
Environmental Compliance	24	24	52	52	26	26
Facility Security	50	50	79	79	54	54
Routine CDF Operations	4,408	4,408	4,351	4,351	4,725	4,725
Routine CDF Maintenance	435	435	614	614	467	467
Maintenance Dredging Federal Channel – Primary Work Package	3,442	3,442	4,090	4,090	0	0
Routine Dam Safety Activities	44	39	30	30	91	91
Bridge Inspection	0	0	10	10	0	0
Economic and Environmental Evaluation	0	0	0	0	250	250
TOTAL	8,659	8,654	9,478	9,478	5,891	5,891

Congressional Interests

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