US Army Corps of Engineers ®

Great Lakes Navigation System

Cleveland Harbor, OH

Harbor Features

- Located on Lake Erie in the City of Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, OH
- Authorization: Rivers & Harbors Acts of 1875, 1886, 1888, 1902, 1917, 1935, 1945, 1946, 1958, 1960, 1962; Water Resources Development Acts of 1976 and 1986; Supplemental Appropriations Act of 1985; and the Energy & Water Appropriations Act of 1988
- Deep draft commercial harbor
- Project depths: 29 ft in the entrance channel, 27 and 28 ft in the east and west basin, respectively, 25 ft in the eastern outer harbor, 27 ft in the lower Cuyahoga River and Old River, 23 ft in the remainder of the Cuyahoga River, and 18 ft in the turning basin.
- 9.2M tons of material were shipped and received in 2022
- Interconnected with 34 commercial ports: ships to 12 ports, receives from 19 ports, and ships and receives to/from 3 ports
- Over 5.5 miles of breakwater structures
- 5.8 miles of federal channel on the Cuyahoga River and 1 mile on the Old River.
- Confined disposal facilities (CDFs) are located to the east of the harbor entrance
- Major stakeholders: Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority, Burke Lakefront Airport, U.S. Coast Guard, Cleveland-Cliffs, Cleveland Fire Department, Bituminous Products, Cargill Deicing Technology, Carmeuse Lime & Stone, Cuyahoga Concrete Co., Essroc Cement Corp., Federal Marine Terminals Inc., Fleet Supplies Inc., Lafarge North America, Marathon Petroleum, Mid-Continent Coal & Coke, Ontario Stone Corp., Sand Products, Shelly Company, and St. Mary's Cement

Project Requirements

- The harbor requires approximately 225,000 cubic yards of dredging every year to maintain the navigation channel. The harbor was last dredged in 2024. Maintenance dredging is planned for 2025.
- East Breakwater incremental repairs by government floating plant were last completed in 2024. Further repairs are planned 2025 and needed in 2026.
- Development of a Dredged Material Management Plan (DMMP) is ongoing and will result in the development of mutually acceptable long-term capacity solutions. The DMMP will address beneficial use of dredged material.

Consequences of Not Maintaining the Project

- If the harbor closed to commercial traffic, commodities would require rail and truck transport. This would increase annual emission rates by over 50,400 tons of harmful particulate matter (PM-10) and increase costs by $25,971,000 due to increased railroad-related accidents, and $18,448,000 due to increased trucking-related accidents.
- Light loading: losses of between 1 and 2 feet of channel depth would result in increased transportation costs of between $1,511,000 and $4,965,000 annually.

Transportation Importance

- Major receiving and shipping port on the Great Lakes and critical harbor of refuge
- Major commodities shipped or received include iron ore, limestone, cement and concrete, sand and gravel, salt, and iron and steel products.
- Major iron ore trans-shipment facility located at Cleveland's Outer Harbor. This facility provides iron ore to inland steel mills at lower delivery costs when compared to truck or direct rail delivery.
- Waterborne transportation facilitated by the harbor supports $421.1M in business revenue, 1,674 direct, indirect, and induced jobs, and $130.2M in labor income to the transportation sector.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, 2025, and 2026
Cleveland Harbor, OH – Project Requirements and President's Budget ($1,000)

Work Package	FY24 Requirement	FY24 Appropriation	FY25 Requirement	FY25 Appropriation	FY26 Requirement	FY26 President's Budget
Maintenance Dredging – Primary Work Package	8,528	8,528	14,610	14,610	11,275	11,275
Channel Training Structural Maintenance - Fleet	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	0	0
Project Condition Surveys	637	637	659	659	675	675
Environmental Compliance Management	11	11	11	11	12	12
Regional Economic Data Collection	266	266	274	274	282	282
Dredged Material Management Plan	200	200	650	650	250	0
Engineering, Design, and Construction West Pier Repair	1,800	0	0	0	0	0
Interim Confined Disposal Facility Operations	250	250	281	281	265	265
Real Estate Management	34	34	37	37	36	36
Engineering and Design West Spur Breakwater	0	0	250	250	0	0
Critical Breakwater Safety Maintenance	50	0	0	0	50	0
Harbor Structure Maintenance Plan	125	125	0	0	0	0
Navigation Structure Condition Assessment	0	0	0	0	10	10
Engineering and Design East Breakwater	0	0	650	650	0	0
Construction East Breakwater Repairs - Fleet	0	0	3,800	3,800	0	0
Engineering and Design West Arrowhead Breakwater	0	0	1,750	1,750	0	0
TOTAL	**13,801**	**11,951**	**24,872**	**24,872**	**12,855**	**12,555**

Congressional Interests

- Representative Shontel Brown D-OH-11
- Senator Jon Husted R-OH
- Senator Bernie Moreno R-OH