



M O V I N G T H E
AMERICAN
ECONOMY

U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of Public Affairs
Washington, D.C.
www.dot.gov/affairs/briefing.htm

News

SLSDC 05-07
Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Rebecca McGill
Tel.: (202) 366-5418

Burns Harbor, Federal Marine Terminal Earn Seaway Pacesetter Awards

The Ports of Indiana Burns Harbor and its Federal Marine Terminal (FMT) Burns Harbor received the St. Lawrence Seaway's coveted Pacesetter Award at the annual Indiana Logistics Summit held in Indianapolis today. The Pacesetter award acknowledges those U.S. ports and terminals in the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway system that have shown increases in international freight tonnage shipped through the waterway over the previous year.

In last year's 2006 navigation season the Indiana Ports-Burns Harbor/Portage increased tonnage by 79 percent over its 2005 results, handling more than a million metric tons of steel imports valued at \$584 million. The port's FMT Burns Harbor terminal, its general cargo stevedore, also posted a strong performance with a 73 percent jump to more than 791,000 tons.

"Burns Harbor time and again proves that it is America's number 1 steel port on the Lakes, handling on average 15 percent of European steel exports into the world's longest inland waterway," said Collister ("Terry") Johnson, Jr., Administrator of the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (SLSDC).

Mostly semi-finished steel coil, the steel is used extensively in the automobile, manufacturing, and construction industries throughout America's industrialized Midwest.

Johnson's remarks came at the state's fifth annual logistics summit that focuses on ways to expand the competitive advantages of the Hoosier State's transportation, distribution and logistics industry.

Receiving the award plaques for the Port of Indiana-Burns Harbor and FMT Burns Harbor Terminal were Rich Cooper, Executive Director, and Ian Hurt, General Manager, respectively.

"This Pacesetter Award validates our belief that everyone at this port and terminal is working hard to deliver the best possible service to attract and retain customers so they'll keep coming back," said Cooper.

While Burns Harbor has historically been noted for its steel imports, the FMT Terminal exported 10,000 tons of Mittal-made steel to Pasajes, Spain two months ago.

The beefed up traffic numbers last year earned the port of Burns Harbor its eighth SLSDC Robert J. Lewis Pacesetter tonnage award and FMT Burns Harbor its fifth Pacesetter honor. For the 2006 season seven other ports and four other terminals won the award.

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