US Army Corps of Engineers

Great Lakes Navigation System

Rouge River, MI

River Features

- Rouge River originates in Oakland and Washtenaw Counties, MI. The river is 30 miles long, flows southeast through Wayne County, and joins the Detroit River at the westerly limit of the City of Detroit. The navigation channel is located on the lower 2 ½ miles of the river.
- Authorization: River & Harbor Acts of 8 Aug 1917, 30 Aug 1935, 3 Jul 1958, 23 Oct 1962
- Deep draft commercial harbor
- Project depths varying from 21 feet in the Cut-off and Main Rouge channel to 18 to 15 feet in the Old Rouge channel.
- Ranking included with Port of Detroit as 47th leading U.S. port with 7.5M tons of material shipped or received in 2008 on Rouge River alone (12.8M tons overall for Port of Detroit).
- Would rank 6th among the Great Lakes Ports if considered separately from Port of Detroit.
- Total of 4.5 miles of Federal channels and one turning basin
- Pointe Mouille confined disposal facility is located in Lake Erie and has sufficient capacity for the next 25 years.
- Major stakeholders include U.S. Coast Guard, Lake Carriers' Association, Harridon Terminal, Inc., Michigan Marine Terminal, and Nicholson Terminal & Dock Co., and Severstal North America.

Project Requirements

- Rouge River historically requires maintenance dredging of 50,000 to 60,000 cubic yards on a 2 to 5 year cycle; the river was last dredged in 2008. The river will be dredged in 2012 to address portions of the channel that are experiencing up to 3 feet of shoaling.

Consequences of Not Maintaining the Project

- Bulk commodities that pass through the Rouge River generate $458M annually in direct revenue while supporting over 2,300 jobs and generating $106M per year in personal income.
- If the channel was closed to commercial traffic, commodities would have to be transported by rail and truck. This would increase annual emission rates by 748,000 tons of harmful particulate matter (PM-10) and increase costs by $4.83M due to increased railroad related accidents, and $35.6M due to increased trucking related accidents.
- Light loading; loss of between 1 and 2 feet of channel depth results in increased transportation costs of $3.6M to $8M annually.

Transportation Importance

- Major receiving port on the Great Lakes.
- Commodities include iron ore, petroleum products, coal, slag, cement, limestone, lignite, fuel oil, coke, sand and gravel.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fiscal Year (FY) 2011, 2012 and 2013
Rouge River, MI - Project Requirements and President's Budget ($1,000)

Work Package	FY11 Requirement	FY11 Work Plan	FY12 Requirement	FY12 Appropriation	FY13 Requirement	FY13 President's Budget
Project Condition Surveys	107		60	59		
Fill Management Activities						
Maintenance Dredging – Primary Work Package	1,110		900	882		
Maintenance Dredging – Backlog Work Package						
TOTALS	**1,217**	**0**	**960**	**941**	**0**	**0**

Congressional Interests

- Representative Hansen Clarke D-MI-13
- Senator Carl Levin D-MI
- Senator Debbie Stabenow D-MI