



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**®  
Detroit District

## HARBOR INFRASTRUCTURE INVENTORIES Presque Isle Harbor, Michigan



**Harbor Location:** Presque Isle Harbor is located on the south shore of Lake Superior near Marquette, MI.

**Authority:** River & Harbor Acts of 3 Jun 1896, 13 Jun 1902, 30 Aug 1935, 14 Jul 1960.

**Project Description:** Presque Isle Harbor is a deep draft commercial harbor with over 2,800 feet of breakwater.

**Traffic:** 8,500,000 tons (5-Year average, 2006-2010)

**Transportation Importance:** This project is a major regional port on the Great Lakes with commodities received including limestone, coal, and iron ore.

### Congressional Interest:

- Representative Dan Benishek R-MI-1
- Senator Carl Levin D-MI
- Senator Debbie Stabenow D-MI

**Current Condition Assessment:** **B**



**Date of Site Visit:** 24 October 2013

**Summary of Impact:** Prevailing waves come from a northwesterly direction. The harbor has a history of storm events large enough to overtop the federal breakwaters several times a year, especially in the fall. However, even under these conditions the breakwater serves well to slow the momentum of the waves, and significantly reducing the impact on the shore line. Within the harbor a major portion of the shoreline is protected from erosion by rubble mound that requires continual maintenance and the municipal harbor also has its own breakwater structures. The distance from the shoreline, as well as a moderate gradient makes assessing the potential impact difficult. The major area of impact would be the private marinas, the coal fired power plant, and the ore dock. However, the structures outlined in this report are immediately adjacent to Lake Superior and may be at a low enough elevation that flooding is possible.

**Examples of Protected Infrastructure:**



**1. Residential Neighborhood:** Privately owned homes located south-west of the harbor consist of single family dwellings and apartment complexes. The federal breakwater would provide protection from severe storms out of the northwest.



**2. Bio Life Plasma Services Office:** An office complex that is located relatively close to the southwest shoreline of the harbor. The federal breakwater would provide protection from severe storms out of the northwest.



**3. City Sanitary Lift Station:** Hawley Street sanitary lift station that serves north Marquette. Protection comes from the federal breakwater.



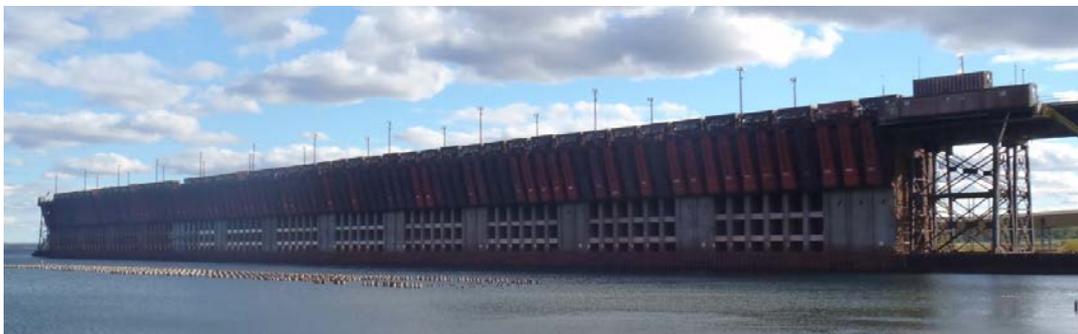
**4. Presque Isle Power Plant:** This power plant is part of the WE Energy System. It has nine (9) coal fired generating units capable of producing a total net generating capacity of 617 Megawatts of electricity with an average annual coal use of 2 million tons. Half of the plants generating capacity goes to the Empire and Tilden iron ore mines. It can stock pile enough coal to allow it to operate through the winter months.



**5. Presque Isle Power Plant Coal Conveyor:** This conveyor receives coal from self unloading freighters and transfers it to the power plants stock pile.



**6. Lake Superior & Ishpeming Railroad Ore Loading Dock:** This ore dock was constructed in 1912, sets roughly 75 feet above the water surface and is nearly a quarter mile long. Approximately 8 million tons of taconite pellets via rail car are received annually from the Cleveland-Cliffs Iron's Taconite Processing Facility. The taconite is then loaded onto bulk ore carriers (freighters) using this dock at a rate of 20 to 30 ships a month.



**7. Presque Isle Marina:** This marina is owned and operated by the City of Marquette. Up until the marina sustained ice damage last winter closing several mooring slips, there were 97 slips, 87 Seasonal and 10 Transient. Facilities include boat launch ramps, gas and diesel fueling station, electrical hook up, pump out station, and an administration building with restrooms, showers, and laundry facilities. Docks are of a bin-wall design. It operates from May 1 to November 1 every year. The marina also has additional breakwater structures for added protection.



**Potential Impact Area:** The following graphic displays property parcels that could be impacted within various zones defined by different setbacks from the shoreline behind existing Federal coastal structures. Values are based on real property tax assessments from these parcels, and don't reflect any detailed coastal zone damage assessments. Figures simply reflect property values at various setbacks.

