



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®

## HARBOR INFRASTRUCTURE INVENTORIES

### Ashtabula Harbor, Ohio



**Harbor Location:** Ashtabula Harbor is located at the mouth of the Ashtabula River on the southern shore of Lake Erie in the city of Ashtabula, OH about 55 miles east of Cleveland, OH.

**Authority:** River & Harbor Acts of 1896, 1905, 1910, 1919, 1935, 1937, 1945, 1960 and 1965.

**Project Description:** Originally authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 1896, Ashtabula Harbor is a deep draft commercial harbor. Protective structures consist of east, west and inner breakwaters totaling over 2.5 miles in length. The breakwaters are rubblemound and laid up stone construction.

**Traffic:** 6,494,135 tons ( 5-Year average, 2005 – 2009).

**Transportation Importance:** Major regional receiving port on the Great Lakes for commodities including coal, iron ore, limestone, chemicals, ores and minerals.

#### Congressional Interest:

- Representative Steven LaTourette R-OH-14
- Senator Rob Portman R-OH
- Senator Sherrod Brown D-OH

#### Current Condition Assessment: **D**



**Date of Site Visit:** 17 June 2010

**Summary of Impact:** Prevailing waves come from the west to northeast. Failure of either the West or East Breakwaters would be immediately detrimental to facilities and operations at the Norfolk Southern Ashtabula Coal Dock and Pinney Dock and Transport. Increased wave action in the harbor would propagate upstream damaging facilities along the river and limiting the ability of the U.S. Coast Guard Station Ashtabula to carry out their mission. The inner breakwater serves to provide additional protection of the rail connections for Norfolk Southern and Pinney Dock and increased wave action would lead to damage to these connections. Additionally, breakwater failure would lead to increased sedimentation of the Ashtabula River channel and the harbor basin, increasing dredging needs and leading to light loading.

**Examples of Protected Infrastructure:**



**1. Walnut Beach Park:** City park with wildlife preserve, swimming beach, playground, volleyball and basketball courts, picnic tables, concession stand and boardwalk. Longshore transport for beach deposition is retained by the West Breakwater.



**2. Norfolk Southern - Ashtabula Coal Dock:** Ashtabula Coal Dock is a Norfolk Southern-owned and served facility, located on Lake Erie. The facility handles 3+ million tons per year with a maximum capacity of around 7 million tons and employs 41. All coal is brought in by rail and shipped via the harbor primarily to Canada, Wisconsin and Michigan. It operates a conveyor over the river between the rail center and the coal dock with an average loading capacity of 3,000 tons per hour. The facility accommodates a maximum vessel length of 1,000 feet. The facility is dependent on a protected harbor for operations. Breakwater failure would cause increased wave action in the harbor and shoaling of the Federal Channel, curtailing operations.



**3. U.S. Coast Guard Station Ashtabula:** Coast Guard Station with area of responsibility extending from Geneva to Conneaut, OH. 2 search and rescue vessels (33' and 25' in length). 2 story station. Breakwater failure and inundation would cause damage to coast guard structures, and would eliminate harbor's use as a harbor of refuge.



**4. Ashtabula Transient Boat Dock:** Port authority operated free transient dockage with 300' of open wall dockage. Water and pump out is also available. Breakwaters provide protection for docked vessels.



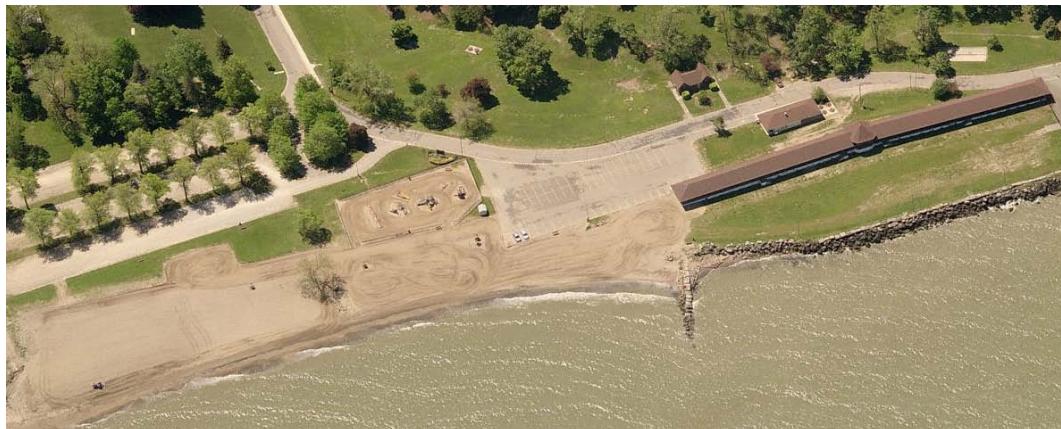
**5. R.W. Sidley, Inc.:** Privately owned industry involved in stone storage and shipping and employing 2. Around 100,000 tons handled annually. Material arrives via lake ship from Ohio and Ontario, Canada and is then shipped to the local market via truck. No problems with wave action however the facility is having to light load due to depth issues. Breakwater failure would likely result in increased shoaling of the Federal channel exacerbating the light loading problem.



**6. Pinney Dock and Transport Company:** Privately owned industry involved in limestone transport and employing 50. Stone is shipped in via lake ship from Ohio, Michigan and Canada. Facility handles around 2 million tons of stone per year; all of it is shipped out via truck for the local market. Additionally, the facility ships out golf course sand via the lake. Onsite storage capacity is 2 million tons. Estimated annual activity is \$30 million. Breakwater failure would result in increased wave action and shoaling of the channel and would limit shipping operations.



**7. Lake Shore Park:** Municipally run 55 acre park with boat launch (\$5/day or \$80/season), playground, pavilions and swimming beach. Breakwaters provide protection from wave action due to west-northwest winds.



**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.

