



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

## HARBOR INFRASTRUCTURE INVENTORIES Michigan City Harbor, Indiana



**Harbor Location:** Michigan City Harbor is located on the southwest shore of Lake Michigan in Michigan City, LaPorte County, Indiana approximately sixty miles southeast of Chicago Harbor in Chicago, IL.

**Authority:** Rivers and Harbors Acts of 1836, 1870, 1899, 1905, 1927 and 1935. Section 107 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1960. Section 123 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1970, Water Resources Development Act 1986 and 1996.

**Project Description:** Originally authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1836, Michigan City Harbor was once a deep draft commercial harbor. The harbor is protected by 2,304 linear feet of timber crib breakwaters, a West Pier which is 835 feet long and an East Pier which is 2,276 feet long. Longest fetch & direction: 300 miles, north-northeasterly. Maximum recorded water height: 19.0 ft (1985), Typical Storm Wave (2-year off-shore wave): 16.4 ft.

**Traffic:** No commerce reported.

**Transportation Importance:** The harbor is the safe refuge on southern Lake Michigan for recreational boats because its detached breakwater provides protection for vessels entering the harbor. There are transient berths, gasoline, diesel fuel, water, electricity, sewage pump-out and launching all available within the harbor. The U.S. Coast Guard maintains law enforcement and search & rescue vessels within the port. The Coast Guard needs access to and from the port to conduct its Homeland Security missions on Lake Michigan.

### **Congressional Interest:**

- Representative Joe Donnelly, D-IN-2
- Senator Richard Lugar, R-IN
- Senator Dan Coates, R-IN

**Current Condition Assessment:** **C**



**Date of Site Visit:** 16 September 2010

**Summary of Impact:** The immediate impact of a breach and/or overtopping of the breakwaters would be upon the Washington Park Marina and NIPSCO's Michigan City Generation Station. Significant wave activity within the harbor could damage any vessel docked at the marina or moored in the harbor. Additionally, any breach in the breakwater could potentially increase the rate of shoaling within the federal and private channels, resulting in limited navigability for recreational boaters. The U.S. Coast Guard Station – Michigan City operates out of the city owned marina and is a multi-mission unit with a focus on search and rescue; maritime law enforcement; ports, waterways, and coastal security; and marine environmental protection. The shore structures with the greatest exposure are the marina and power generation plant, which has transmission lines installed along the beachfront area. Other shore structures subject to inundation are the U.S. Coast Guard – Michigan City Station, the Michigan City Water Works, Michigan City Water Treatment Plant, the Michigan City Amtrak Station, Giorgetti's Restaurant & Yacht Club Pub, Old Lighthouse Museum, Fish and Wildlife Law Enforcement facility and the Michigan City Naval Armory.

## Examples of Protected Infrastructure:



- 1. Northern Indiana Public Service Company (Michigan City Generating Station):** The Michigan City Generating Station is a coal and natural gas-fired power plant which is owned by NiSource. The current plant was built in three phases. Units 2 and 3 are gas-fired power plant commissioned in November of 1951 and October of 1951, respectively; and Unit 12 is a coal power plant which was commissioned in May of 1974. The plant has a maximum capacity of 680 MW.



2. **Washington Park – Marina Port Authority:** Washington Park – Marina Port Authority is a municipal marina built in 1959. A complete rebuild of the slips was finished in 1999 at the cost of \$9.7 million. The docks are permanent but the finger piers are somewhat adjustable. The Marina has 596 boat slips which range in price from \$1,670 to \$8,700 per season.



3. **U.S. Coast Guard – Station Michigan City:** U.S. Coast Guard – Station Michigan City has been in operation since 1888. Station Michigan City is a multi-mission unit with a focus on search and rescue; maritime law enforcement; ports, waterways, and coastal security; and marine environmental protection. The station has nineteen enlisted active duty members and seven enlisted Coast Guard Reservists which operate three different vessels assigned to the station.



4. **Giorgetti's Restaurant & Yacht Club Pub:** Giorgetti's Restaurant & Yacht Club Pub was originally owned by the Michigan City Yacht Club in 1938. Since then the Giorgetti's Restaurant has moved into the main part of the building while the Michigan City Yacht Club still remains on the lower level.



5. **Old Lighthouse Museum:** Constructed by the U.S. Government in 1858, Michigan City Lighthouse operated until 1940. It became the property of the City of Michigan City in 1964, and in 1965 it was leased to the Michigan City Historical Society to restore and establish a museum.



6. **Amtrak – Michigan City Station:** Amtrak – Michigan City Station is part of Amtrak’s Michigan Services route which runs from Chicago to various destinations in Michigan. The current station is a platform shelter near the former station house, which is now a local restaurant.



7. **Indiana Department of Natural Resources (Fish and Wildlife Law Enforcement):** Indiana Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement – District 10 serves Northwest Indiana in Lake, Porter, LaPorte, Newton, Jasper, Starke, and Pulaski Counties.

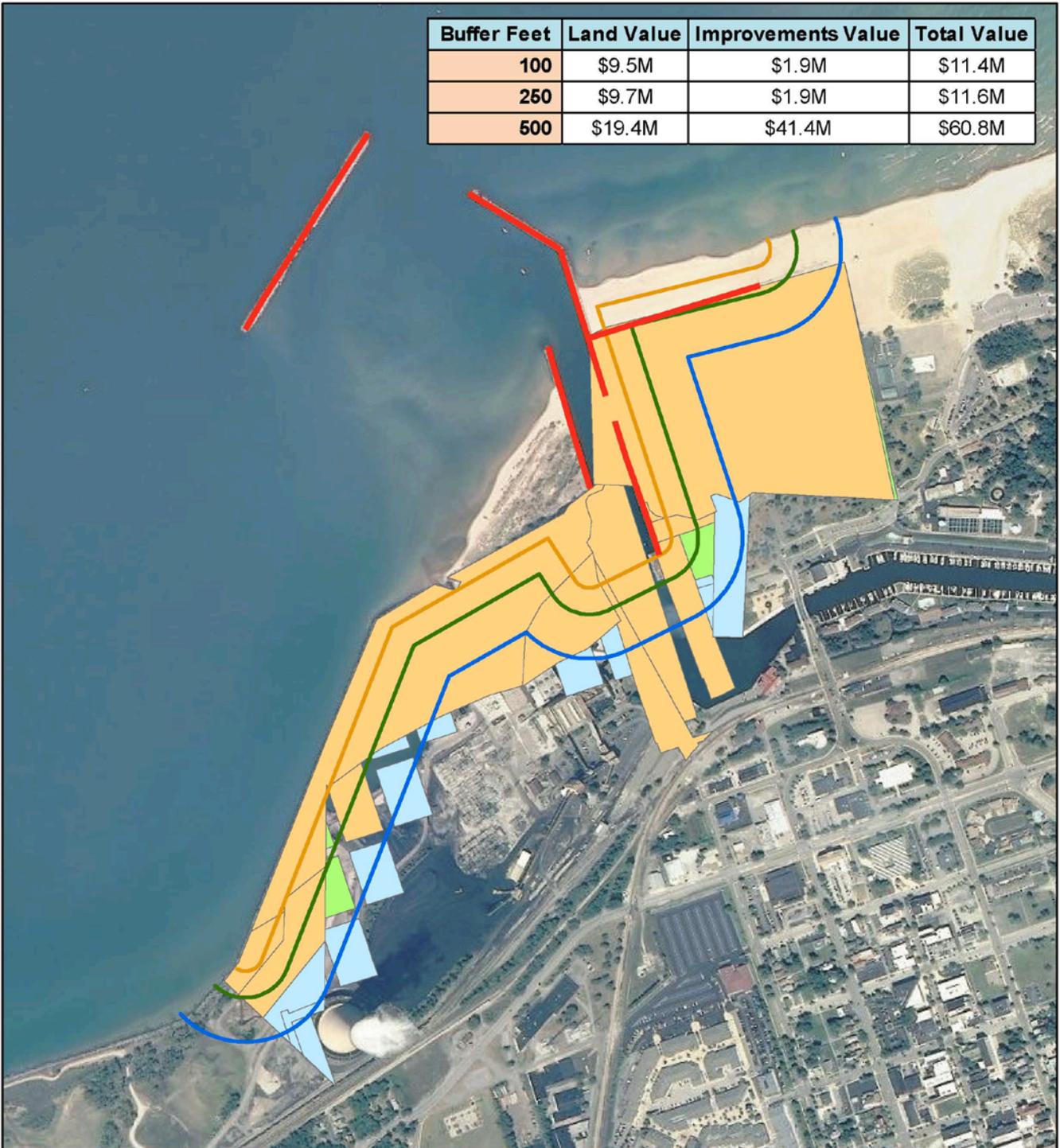


**8. Formerly Goerg Boats & Motor, Inc.:** Goerg Boats & Motor Inc. was formerly a boat retailer and full service boat repair facility.



**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.

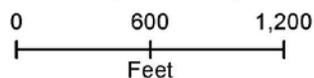
Buffer Feet	Land Value	Improvements Value	Total Value
100	\$9.5M	\$1.9M	\$11.4M
250	\$9.7M	\$1.9M	\$11.6M
500	\$19.4M	\$41.4M	\$60.8M



- Federal Structure
- Shoreline\_100\_ft\_buffer
- Shoreline\_250\_ft\_buffer
- Shoreline\_500\_ft\_buffer
- Parcels\_100\_ft\_buffer
- Parcels\_250\_ft\_buffer
- Parcels\_500\_ft\_buffer

## MICHIGAN CITY HARBOR

Michigan City, IN



Imagery Source- NAIP 2010



Created May 2012- by T. Crockett- Buffalo District