

West Virginia

The State of West Virginia borders 277 miles of the Ohio River's 981-mile length. The state also consists of the entire 91-mile navigable length of the Kanawha River, four navigable miles of the Little Kanawha River and the upper 37 miles of the Monongahela River. The Big Sandy River flows along the western border of the state with 10 miles used for commercial navigation. West Virginia is the second-leading coal-producing state, and barge transportation is a major factor in moving coal to markets efficiently and economically.

In 2008, 74 million tons of commodities (mostly coal, petroleum, aggregates and chemicals) moved to, from, and within West Virginia. These commodities had a combined value of \$4.6 billion. Coal comprised 77% of this tonnage, followed by petroleum products at 10%.

West Virginia 2008 Commodities Moved					
From, to and within the State					
<i>(values in millions of dollars)</i>					
Commodity	Shipped	Received	Within	Total	Value
Coal	37,852,214	10,232,231	9,007,558	57,092,003	\$2,183
Petroleum	5,567,634	796,648	986,548	7,350,830	\$1,053
Crude Petroleum	0	**	0	**	**
Aggregates	1,511,662	4,629,926	154,660	6,296,248	\$293
Grain	**	0	0	0	\$0
Chemicals	227,663	908,307	69,876	1,205,846	\$526
Ores/Minerals	**	574,482	**	574,482	\$46
Iron/Steel	113,317	277,804	**	391,121	\$194
Other	50,090	1,070,817	24,197	1,145,104	\$320
TOTAL	45,322,580	18,490,215	10,242,839	74,055,634	\$4,615
<i>** Insufficient barge operators to release this tonnage – included in "Other Commodities"</i>					
<i>Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Waterborne Commerce Statistics</i>					



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Waterways Council, Inc. is the national public policy organization advocating a modern and well-maintained national system of ports and inland waterways.

An analysis of the waterborne commerce data for the State of West Virginia shows that over 45.0 million tons of commodities were shipped on the river system out of the state. A sizeable portion of this tonnage (almost 38 million tons) consisted of coal. Docks in the state received almost 18.4 million tons, with coal again being the largest commodity. Over 10 million tons moved within the state. In 2008, the 74.0 million tons shipped to, from and within West Virginia were worth \$4.6 billion.

West Virginia docks shipped commodities by barge to 16 other states, and received commodities from 13 other states. The leading state shipped to was Ohio, receiving almost than 18 million tons of goods worth \$780 million. The leading state shipping by barge to West Virginia was Pennsylvania, which transported 4.4 million tons. Louisiana shipments to West Virginia of high-value commodities such as ores/minerals, iron/steel and chemicals were worth more than \$339 million.

West Virginia 2008 Commodities Shipped by Barge to and from Other States <i>(values in millions of dollars)</i>							
Shipments To	Tons	Value	Top Commodity	Shipments From	Tons	Value	Top Commodity
Ohio	17,920,001	\$780	Coal	Pennsylvania	4,454,548	\$215	Coal
Pennsylvania	12,158,410	\$492	Coal	Kentucky	4,115,199	\$245	Coal
Kentucky	8,643,958	\$822	Coal	Ohio	3,713,046	\$182	Coal
Louisiana	4,058,244	\$160	Coal	Indiana	2,026,245	\$96	Aggregates
Indiana	1,151,251	\$51	Coal	Louisiana	1,576,671	\$339	Ores/Minerals
<i>Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Waterborne Commerce Statistics</i>							

There were 127 manufacturing facilities, terminals, and docks in West Virginia that shipped and received tonnage in 2008 (see map). The Port of Huntington, which includes 100 miles of the Ohio River (miles 256.8 to 356.8) in Cabell, Kanawha and Wayne Counties, and the navigable parts of the Kanawha and Big Sandy Rivers, shipped and received over 69.3 million tons of commodities in 2008, making it the largest port on the Inland waterway system and the 7th busiest port in the country. Huntington is also the largest inland port in the country. Kanawha River moved a total of 20.1 million tons, of which coal comprised 15.3 million tons. Another 3.3 million tons of coal originated on the West Virginia side of the Big Sandy River.

In 2008, 7 power plants, in West Virginia, as shown on the map that received 16.3 million tons of coal by barge which 7.2 million tons originated in West Virginia. Over 32.0 million tons of West Virginia coal was shipped by barge to 30 power plants in the Ohio River Basin.

There are 13 navigation locks and dams in West Virginia (see map). They are Robert C. Byrd, Belleville, Racine, Willow Island, Hannibal, Pike Island and New Cumberland on the Ohio River; Winfield, Marmet and London on the Kanawha River and Morgantown, Hildebrand and Opekiska on the Monongahela River.

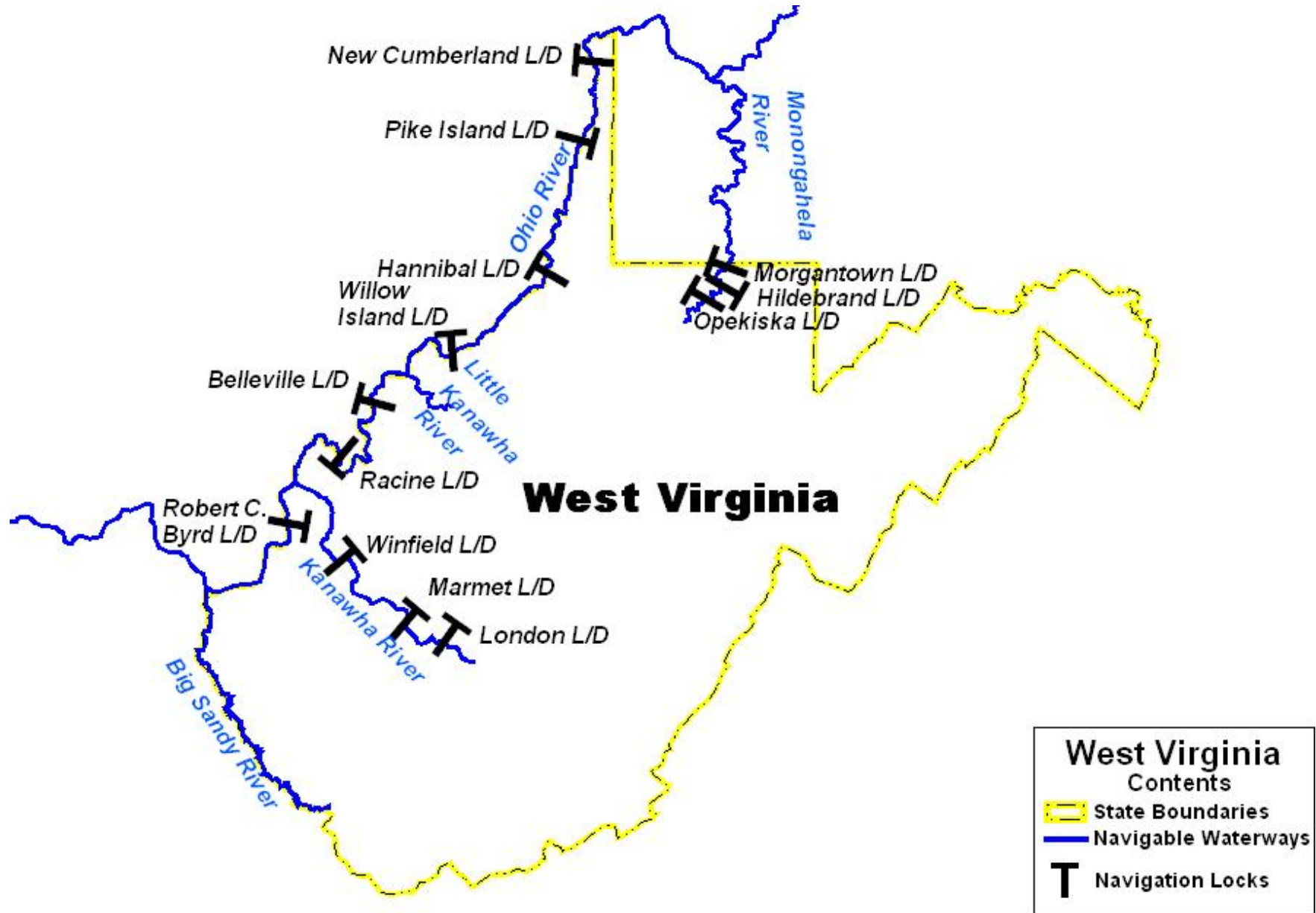
Marmet L&D on the Kanawha River officially opened the new 800 x 110' lock on January 23, 2008 ahead of schedule. While the new lock is open for river traffic, more work needs to be done to complete the project. That includes demolition of the old approach walls, construction of an upstream guard wall, final grading, replanting of the construction site and completion of recreation areas including fishing access. The rest of the work will be complete by September 2009.

One of the old 54' x 360' chambers lock chamber will be used as a backup during scheduled maintenance. This project contains a number of innovative features which have greatly reduced expected construction costs. These features include long-span prefabricated beams for the upper approach wall; sill face intakes for the filling and emptying (F&E) system (which eliminates mass concrete upper approach walls), a central culvert F&E system (which permits smaller chamber monoliths), and a minimal cofferdam footprint.

London Locks and Dam have been in operation since September 1933. The landward lock chamber is 360' x 56'. The riverward lock chamber was extended 47 feet in 2003 and is now 407' x 56'. The upstream guard wall was also replaced in 2003. The new upstream guard wall is 525' long and consists of 5 precast, pre-stressed concrete beams, 105' long each, founded on concrete filled sheet pile cells. This new wall provides a major improvement in the downbound approach to the lock. A new dike was constructed downstream of the dam to control out-draft currents from the hydropower plant. Lengthening the riverward lock chamber has reduced downbound movements of a full upper Kanawha River tow from 5 cuts to 3 cuts.

West Virginia 2008 Lock Tonnage <i>(in thousands of tons)</i>			
LOCK	UPBOUND	DOWNBOUND	TOTAL
Robert C. Byrd	33,999	19,083	53,082
Racine	27,379	22,723	50,102
Belleville	26,967	22,508	49,475
Willow Island	27,072	22,508	49,580
Hannibal	23,564	25,713	49,277
Pike Island	26,314	9,456	35,770
New Cumberland	21,274	8,732	30,006
Winfield	4,864	13,816	18,680
Marmet	1172	14,343	15,515
London	32	2,152	2,184
Morgantown	102	388	490
Hildebrand	108	0	108
Opekiska	115	0	115
Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Lock Performance Monitoring System			

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