

# ***Port of Huntington Tri-State Collaborative Geographic Initiative***

## **EPA Seeks Public Comment**

The Port of Huntington Tri-State (Port) is the largest inland port in the United States in terms of total tonnage as well as ton-miles of cargo. The Port stretches 100 miles along the Ohio River, 90 miles along the Kanawha River, and along 9 miles of the Big Sandy River. Port operations occur in major cities such as Ashland, KY; Ironton, OH; Huntington, WV; and Charleston, WV.

### **EPA's Involvement**

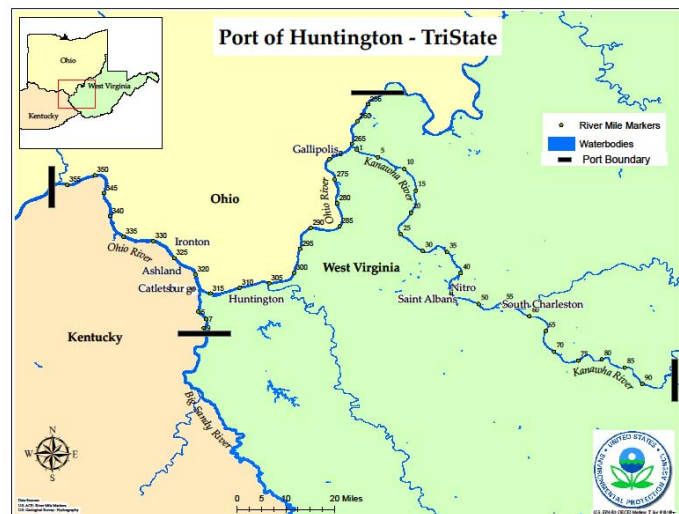
*The Port of Huntington Tri-State Collaborative Geographic Initiative (Initiative)* addresses the impacts of environmental noncompliance on the area's land, air, and water resources by facilities using the Port and promotes environmental stewardship in the area.

#### **The Initiative's goals are to:**

- Assess the environmental impact of Port operations on the surrounding communities;
- Reduce the amount of pollution being introduced into the environment;
- Increase compliance with environmental regulations;
- Increase understanding of environmental requirements by regulated facilities;
- Increase human health benefits from targeted efforts; and
- Build the community's capacity to help ensure the long-term protection of the environment and public health.

#### **Initiative Partners:**

- EPA Regions 3, 4 & 5
- EPA's National Enforcement Investigations Center (NEIC)
- West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP)
- Additional resources provided by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the Kentucky Department of the Environment.



### **Your Role in the Initiative**

Community involvement is critical to EPA's decision-making process. To make sure local communities have a chance to comment on the *Initiative*, EPA has scheduled two (2) community meetings.

#### **Public Meetings:**

**Tuesday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 @ 7:00 p.m.**  
**The Marshall University Memorial  
Student Center  
Fifth Avenue Marshall University  
Huntington, WV**

**Wednesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2010 @ 7:00 p.m.**  
**Wilson University Union  
West Virginia State University  
Institute, WV**

## Port of Huntington Tri-State Background

- The Port is the largest inland port in the United States in terms of tonnage and ton-miles of cargo;
- 77 million tons of cargo move through the Port annually:
  - 60 % coal, 30 % petroleum/chemical products, 10% other products;
- No central Port authority or commission oversees port operations; and
- Increasing concern over public health and environmental issues affecting area communities.

## Overall Strategy

The Initiative includes an **enforcement strategy**, a **compliance assistance strategy** and an **environmental justice/community involvement strategy**. Each will be briefly explained below:

### Enforcement Strategy:

#### Compliance Investigations

- *Process-based multimedia inspections and enforcement:* Focused areas will include large-sized chemical and allied facilities, power plants, coal processing facilities, etc.; and
- *Multimedia sweep inspections and enforcement:* Will focus on small and medium-sized facilities.
  - Round 1 inspections were conducted in Nitro, WV in November 2009;
  - Round 2 inspections will be conducted in the true Tri-State area during the summer of 2010.

### Compliance Assistance (CA) Strategy:

The goal of the CA strategy is to increase understanding of environmental requirements, improve environmental management practices and reduce pollution as a result of direct assistance to regulated entities in the Port.

Sector-specific compliance assistance material has been provided to more than 800 facilities in these sectors:

- Port Terminals and Unloading Operations;
- Shipbuilding and Repair;
- Scrap/Recycling Facilities;
- Auto Salvage Yard;
- Coal Processing; and
- Stone, Clay, Glass, and Ready Mix Concrete.

### Compliance Assistance Workshop

EPA Regions 3, 4 and 5 in partnership with the Huntington District Waterways Association sponsored a free, one-day environmental compliance assistance workshop for the Port of Huntington manufacturing facilities in April 2010. The workshop provided information and resources needed to comply with federal environmental regulations, as well as highlighting waste reduction opportunities that save money and reduce waste disposed. Over sixty industry representatives attended the workshop. The workshop was held at Marshall University in Huntington, WV.

### Environmental Justice/Community Involvement Strategy:

Environmental Justice (EJ) is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. EPA has this goal for all communities and persons across this nation. EJ will be achieved when everyone enjoys the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards and equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work. Through meaningful involvement and public outreach the *Initiative's* goal is to build the community's capacity to help ensure the protection of the environment and public health.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.epa.gov/region03/oecej/initiatives.html>