



The Interlake Steamship Company
7300 Engle Road
Middleburg Heights, OH 44130
Phone: 440.260.6900
www.interlake-steamship.com

Statement regarding the mechanical issues on the M/V James R. Barker

The *M/V James R. Barker*, one of four thousand-foot freighters in The Interlake Steamship Company fleet, experienced a mechanical issue at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday in the ship's starboard main engine.

The crew remained in full control of the vessel and deftly transitioned operation to the ship's second engine. At no time was the crew or vessel in any danger.

The *Barker*, which was on the open water of Lake Michigan at the time the difficulty was identified, was swiftly rerouted to Bay Shipbuilding in Sturgeon Bay, Wis., where it will undergo immediate repair.

"We take pride in our fleet-wide preventative maintenance program but unfortunately some mechanical issues can't be prevented," says Interlake Steamship Company President Mark Barker. "Through intentional foresight and proactive planning, we are prepared with the necessary replacement crankshaft in inventory that will allow us to return this ship to service as quickly as possible with the least amount of downtime."

The replacement parts were sent to Bay Shipbuilding from the Company's long-term equipment storage facility in Detroit. The repair is expected to take 20 days.

"We already have people aboard to start the repair process," Barker says. "And we applaud our crew for its rapid response and ability to navigate to the shipyard quickly and safely."

Headquartered in Middleburg Heights, Ohio, the Interlake Steamship Company was launched in 1913. For more than a century, the Company has led the Great Lakes shipping industry through its commitment to flawless service, environmental stewardship and continuous innovation. ISO 9002 certified, Interlake's fleet of nine vessels deliver raw materials to ports throughout the Great Lakes region. For more information, visit <http://www.interlake-steamship.com>

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