

The Soo Locks - Why are they so important?

Name & Number: C1 SL 14

Use the "MDOT Soo Locks" file to answer the following questions....

1. What is the distance freighters are raised and lowered to pass in and out of Lake Superior? 21 ft.
2. Who built the very first lock in 1798? Northwest Fur Co.
3. There are five locks, but only two are used for freighters today. What about the rest? 2 are closed down for good and one is used for recreational boats only
4. What are the five main items (commodities) transported through the locks? iron ore
coal stone grain cement
5. The Poe Lock, which is used for 70% of all traffic would need 6-12 months to upgrade.
6. In what two decades were studies done that stated a need for a larger lock? 1970's & 1980's
7. 11 million U.S. jobs could be lost due to a shut down of the Poe Lock, even more in Canada & Mexico.
8. It could take up to 10 years to build a new lock, at a cost of \$ 580 million!
9. In what year did the U.S. Congress authorize a new lock? 1986 How many years ago was that? 31 (2017)
10. So what do you think? Is this a big deal or not? Explain what you think. Yes! Plenty of reasons to give