



Modeling Preferences for Upper Mississippi Grain Movements: The Mid-American Grain Study

Start Date: Jul 2003

POC:

Projected End Date: Nov 2004

[POC](#)

Problem Addressed:

Current Corps planning models designed to assess the potential benefits and costs of proposed navigation projects on the inland waterways, rely heavily on assumptions about demand, (i.e. how much the waterways will be used by shippers). These assumptions relate in large part to how shippers will respond to changes in transportation costs and times. Estimates of benefits from improving the waterways vary considerably depending on the assumptions that are made. Recent experience has pointed to the need to carefully evaluate the current assumptions being used.

Objective:

The goal of this study is to survey shippers regarding their use of the waterways. The researchers will survey grain shippers on the Upper Mississippi. A related study is looking at coal shippers on the Ohio River. The survey will gather information regarding shippers' current practices including: which mode or modes they use for each shipment (i.e. barge, truck, train, etc.) and the origin/destination of the shipment; the total volume of shipments that are generated annually; and the location of the shippers' facilities. The study also will examine how the shippers would change their operations in response to changes in transportation rates and times. The study will include an analysis of the implications of the findings for planning and investment in navigation projects.

Benefits:

A better understanding of the factors influencing shippers' use of the inland waterways will enable the Corps to improve its planning models and better estimate projected benefits and costs related to waterway improvements.

Status:

Completed

Contract Data:

IWR 2003

Progress:

[Presentation by Kenneth Train and Wesley Wilson](#)
(290 KB, ppt)

[Report by Kenneth Train and Wesley W. Wilson,](#)
[Dec 29, 2006](#) (808 KB, pdf)

[Presentation by Kenneth Train and Wesley W.](#)
[Wilson, Jan 5, 2007](#) (5.8 MB, ppt)

[Presentation Discussion by Kenneth Boyer, Jan](#)

Products (Bookshelf/Toolbox):

[Report by Kenneth Train and Wesley Wilson,](#)
[November 2004](#) (666 KB, pdf)

[Paper by Kenneth Train and Wesley Wilson,](#)
[November 9, 2004](#) (409 KB, pdf)

[Report by Kenneth Train and Wesley W. Wilson,](#)
[May 1, 2007 \(revised\)](#) (2.7 MB, pdf)

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[5.2007 \(30 KB, ppt\)](#)

[May 1,2007 \(1.5 MB, pdf\)](#)

[Presentation Discussion by Van Kolpin, Jan 5,2007 \(42 KB, ppt\)](#)

[Paper by Kenneth Train and Wesley W. Wilson, Nov 1,2007 \(834 KB, pdf\)](#)

[Presentation by Wesley W. Wilson and Kenneth Train, Jan 14,2008 \(568 KB, ppt\)](#)

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Revised 15 Sep 2008