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PORT HANDLES LONGEST WIND BLADES TO DATE

Premiere West Coast Port demonstrates unique cargo handling abilities

Longview, WA– This week the Port of Longview discharged the longest wind turbine blades since beginning to handle wind cargo in 2003. The Port discharged wind blades for Vestas, utilizing both of the Port’s mobile harbor cranes, on-dock rail and first-rate ILWU Local 21 labor.

Using both Liebherr cranes in tandem, the 54-meter (177 feet) blades were lifted off of the vessel and placed onto railcars running along the Port’s on-dock rail system. ILWU labor secured the blades to specialized swiveling bases to ensure they were locked into place, but still able to rotate with each turn along the rail line to their final destination in Illinois.

“Operations like these require a lot of attention to detail and strategizing to ensure that it is efficient and cost effective for both the Port and the customer,” said the Senior Terminal Superintendent Larry Landgraver. “Successfully completing these technical operations time and time again can be credited to strategic investments in infrastructure, as well as our partnership ILWU labor.”

Blades were discharged directly to railcars, an operation only performed by the Port of Longview on the west coast. The Port has similar operations in the near future that utilize on-dock rail and both mobile harbor cranes.

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ABOUT THE PORT OF LONGVIEW The Port of Longview is the first full-service operating port with strategic transportation connections on the deep-draft Columbia River shipping channel in southwest Washington State. The Port is located just 66 river miles from the Pacific Ocean, 120 driving miles from Seattle, Washington, and 40 driving miles from Portland, Oregon. Port facilities include eight marine terminals and waterfront industrial property with direct connections to main-line rail and interstate highway. Cargo handling specialties include bulk cargos and breakbulk commodities.

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