

## New taconite ore cargo to be shipped

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Iron ore pellets long have been a mainstay of Twin Ports docks. But soon, a new cargo — unprocessed taconite ore — could be loaded onto downbound vessels.

The Pere Marquette 41 is due to load 5,000 tons of taconite at Hallett Dock today. Under the power of the tug Undaunted, the barge then will proceed to Chicago.

The aggregate will be used for road construction in the Chicago area, replacing softer limestone-based

rock usually used in that region. The taconite aggregate can be used to produce a more durable road surface with better traction qualities, according to research tests performed at the University of Minnesota Duluth's Natural Resources Research Institute.

If the experiment is successful, it could open a new market for millions of tons of taconite rock readily available on the Iron Range. That rock could be shipped through the Twin Ports, creating more work for dock hands and crews.

