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## Press Release

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### **BELUGA ENTERPRISE calls at Port of Olympia**

The *Beluga Enterprise* arrived early Feb. 20 at the Port of Olympia marine terminal to discharge a cargo of about 3,900 metric tons of bagged garnet from India. The vessel is expected to be in port about three days. The vessel also carried four yachts, one of which was unloaded in Olympia.

This is the first vessel to call at the port this year. The port had two garnet shipments in 2007 and two in 2006.

The product is low-grade garnet that is ground very fine and used in high-speed water cutting applications. It is stored in the port's dockside warehouse to await shipment by truck to western U.S. and Canadian manufacturing operations.

The yacht unloaded in Olympia was about 75 feet long and weighed 60 metric tons. It was discharged using the vessel's crane directly into the water.

"We are pleased to have this garnet come through the port," said Bill McGregor, Port Commission President. "As the larger Puget Sound ports continue to increase container volumes, we have the facilities, equipment and skilled longshore labor to handle these breakbulk cargoes efficiently. These vessels bring jobs and revenues to our community. "

The vessel flies the flag of Antigua. It was built at the Jiangdong Shipyard in China in 2005.

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#### **About the Port of Olympia**

The southernmost deepwater port on Puget Sound, the Port of Olympia is Thurston County's partner in economic opportunity. The Port owns and operates a diversified international shipping terminal, an established niche facility that handles a range of breakbulk and project cargoes. The Port also owns and operates a strategically located regional airport, a vibrant 656-slip recreational marina and boat haulout/repair facility, and a thriving real estate division. A community port, it generates an estimated 2,600 jobs in Thurston County and indirectly over 5,000 jobs in Washington State.