

Commissioned USS BURTON ISLAND (ACB 1) in 1946, this vessel was the sixth of seven "WIND" class icebreakers to have been built by the "Western Pipe and Steel Co.", San Pedro, Calif. Of the seven "WIND" class icebreakers, the first three were transferred to the Soviet Union under lend lease; two were taken by the UNITED STATES COAST GUARD, and the last two became the USS BURTON ISLAND and the USS EDISTO. Presently there are six icebreakers on duty with the U.S. Coast Guard, USCGC WESTWIND (WAGB 281), USCGC NORTHWIND (WAGB 282), USCGC BURTON ISLAND (WAGB 283), USCGC GLACIER (WAGB 4), USCGC POLAR STAR (WAGB 10), and the USCGC POLAR SEA (WAGB 11); this being reduced to five with the decommissioning of BURTON ISLAND on 9 May 1978.

BURTON ISLAND has overall dimensions of 269 feet in length and a 63 foot beam displacing 6,465 tons on a full load draft of 29 feet. As originally designed, she is powered by six 2,000 horsepower diesel generator sets connected to two main motors, one on each shaft. The electrical arrangement permits production of 5,000 horsepower per shaft. All the wind class icebreakers were designed with a bow propeller, but the NORTHWIND and EASTWIND experienced damage to the bow motor thrust bearing which threatened damage to the motor. The bow propeller was therefore omitted from BURTON ISLAND.

