

- The US Fab team successfully floated Washington State Ferries' newest vessel, the 144-car *M/V Tokitae* at 1 p.m. last Friday at Vigor Industrial's Seattle facility.
  - The maneuver began with the ferry and drydock being positioned at the launch location.
  - The drydock was then lowered and the ferry pulled out by tugboats.
  - A 12-person US Fab team remained aboard the ferry to monitor water-tightness and vessel-systems integrity throughout the 11 hour process.
  - WSF personnel were on site throughout the process to monitor progress. All parties report the vessel to be in good working order.
- The Tokitae is the first of 2 Olympic Class 144 car ferries under construction for Washington State Ferries (WSF).
- The Tokitae and its sister, the Samish, will replace 2 of the 3 Evergreen State Class ferries that are at or nearing 60 years old.
- The Tokitae is scheduled to be delivered to WSF during the first quarter of 2014.
- Vigor Industrial is the prime contractor, with Nichols Brothers Boat Building and Jesse Engineering as teaming partners.
- Building each 144 car ferry generates up to 500 direct family-wage jobs at shipyards and subcontractors and 1,300 indirect jobs all over the Puget Sound region.
- Next steps: The ferry will remain pier side for the next five months for final work including painting, outfitting of passenger areas and systems testing.
- The *Tokitae* is on track to be delivered to WSF early next year. The project is on budget and on schedule.
- US Fab is the shipbuilding subsidiary of Vigor Industrial.

***Tokitae:*** *The first of the 144-car ferries under construction will be named Tokitae. Taken from Chinook jargon, this Coast Salish greeting may be translated as, "nice day, pretty colors" and also is the name given to an orca whale captured at Penn Cove, near Keystone, in 1970. Tokitae was brought to a marine park in Miami 40 years ago, where she was put into service as an entertainer, and re-named Lolita. She is the last survivor of the 45 Southern Resident Orcas captured in Washington state during the capture era of the 1960s and 70s. Such captures were banned in Washington state waters in 1976.*