CLAIMS

I claim:

1) A method of moving bituminous material from a first location to a second location comprising:
    a) collecting a plurality of bricks in a transport chamber at the first location, wherein each brick comprises non-volatile bituminous material formed into an irregular solid defined by a plurality of non-planar surfaces configured to reduce surface contact with adjacent bricks and a skeleton distributed throughout the solidified non-volatile bituminous material;
    b) transporting the transport chamber and plurality of bricks therein to the second location by vehicle; and
    c) environmentally controlling the transport chamber such that each brick remains substantially solid during transport.

2) The method of claim 1 wherein the transport chamber defines a plurality of vents and environmentally controlling the transport chamber comprises drawing ambient air into the transport chamber through the vents.

3) The method of claim 2 wherein the vehicle comprises a train.

4) The method of claim 3 wherein the transport chamber comprises an aerodynamic rail car.

5) The method of claim 4 wherein the train comprises a fuel-cell powered train.

6) The method of claim 2 wherein the vehicle comprises a truck.

7) The method of claim 6 wherein the transport chamber comprises an aerodynamic semi-trailer.

8) The method of claim 1 wherein the transport chamber is in fluid communication with a water distribution system and environmentally controlling the transport chamber comprises distributing water from the water distribution system into the transport chamber.

9) The method of claim 8 wherein the vehicle comprises a ship positioned in a body of water and the water distribution system is in further fluid communication with the body of water.

10) The method of claim 8 wherein the transport chamber comprises a cargo area of the ship.

11) The method of claim 1 wherein each brick of the plurality of bricks is further configured with a plurality of buoyant features positioned about the skeleton.

12) A method of reducing carbon dioxide emissions when moving bituminous material from a first location to a second location comprising:

    a) providing a transport chamber comprising an environmental control system;

b) collecting a plurality of bricks in the transport chamber at the first location, wherein each brick comprises non-volatile bituminous material formed into an irregularly shaped solid defined by a plurality of faces configured to minimize surface contact with adjacent bricks and a skeleton distributed throughout the solidified non-volatile bituminous material;

c) transporting the transport chamber and plurality of bricks collected therein to the second location with a vehicle; and

d) with the environmental control system, environmentally controlling the transport chamber during transport such that each brick remains substantially solid.

13) The method of claim 12 wherein the vehicle comprises a low-emissions vehicle.

14) The method of claim 13 wherein

the low-emissions vehicle comprises a ship powered by a fuel cell and is positioned in a body of water,

the transport chamber comprises a cargo area of the ship,

the environmental control system comprises a water distribution system in fluid communication with the cargo area of the ship and the water surrounding the ship, and

environmentally controlling the transport chamber comprises sourcing water from the ship's surroundings and distributing it into the transport chamber.

15) The method of claim 13 wherein

the low-emissions vehicle comprises a train powered by a fuel cell,

the transport chamber comprises an aerodynamic rail car,

the environmental control system comprises a plurality of vents defined by the aerodynamic rail car, and

environmentally controlling the transport chamber comprises drawing air into the aerodynamic rail car through the plurality of vents.

16) The method of claim 15 wherein the transport chamber further comprises an air conditioning system positioned in the chamber, wherein the air conditioning system removably couples to the fuel cell.

17) The method of claim 13 wherein

the low-emissions vehicle comprises a truck,

the transport chamber comprises an aerodynamic semi-trailer,

the environmental control system comprises a plurality of vents defined by the aerodynamic semi-trailer, and

environmentally controlling the transport chamber comprises drawing air into the aerodynamic semi-trailer through the plurality of vents.

18) The method of claim 12 wherein each brick further comprises buoyant features positioned about the skeleton.