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NEBRASKA CONCRETE AND AGGREGATES ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

MARCH 2009

Brian Engel is 2009 NC&AA President

Hello to all members!! I have been given a great responsibility this year as president of our association. I am really looking forward to working with all of our members and committees to continue the great momentum this association has right now.

First of all I would like to introduce myself in the first edition this year. I know most of you know me, but some may not. My name is Brian Engel and I work for Paulsen Inc. out of Cozad. I am our Ready Mix Division Manager and have been involved in the association for 14 years now. I have a wonderful wife of 13 years and 3 kids ages 8, 6 and 5. Needless to say there is never a lack of activity right now, but I love it!

I would really like to thank every NC&AA member for their monetary commitment and their volunteered time to continue the



Brian Engel
Paulsen, Inc.
NC&AA President

great pace we have right now. With the current economic times, every companies membership is vital. We have some of the best concrete and aggregate promotion happening in our state. We have numbers to prove that the percentage of concrete to asphalt is one of the best in the country. That's what I want to commend every member for, the direct promotion that each and every member does to better our industry in the state of Nebraska. Great Job!!

Jereme is working hard on box lunches and FAC's (Friday Afternoon Concrete presentations). Please take the time to help him with at least one of these promotion events in your market area. This is some of the best and easiest ways of concrete promotion and education.

In closing I want to thank you again for having the confidence in me to lead our great association for the 2009 year.



Jereme Montgomery
NC&AA Executive
Director

From the Executive Director

I would like to congratulate the NC&AA for its 50th anniversary. We have come a long way and we still have a lot of potential to show our members the true benefits of an alliance. I also want to welcome the new board of directors and committee chairs. I have high expectations for these elected officials to work diligently on specific segments within our association and I will be challenging everyone to make this anniversary a very successful year.

Over the next decade, we will start seeing a lot of changes in our operations. The new economy will be based on sustainability! The NRMCA Building Codes and Sustainability Committee produced sustainability initiatives for the ready mixed concrete industry. The vision of the ready mixed concrete industry is to transform the built environment by not only improving the way concrete is manufactured, but also how the materials in concrete is acquired, constructed, and recycled.

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More **FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** on page 2

In short here are some goals of NRMCA's initiative to be achieved by 2030:

- Reduce the Embodied energy by 30%
- Reduce the carbon footprint by 30%
- Reduce the Potable water by 20%
- Reduce waste by 50%
- Increase recycled content by 400% (yes 400%)

You may have heard the environmental or green benefits concrete contributes in the past just as a material, but this will not be enough. Sustainable plant operations will also play a huge factor in the market segment. Trust me, if we do not start looking at ways to become more resourceful and energy efficient with our operations, not only will you become familiar with the EPA and DEQ, you will possibly lose a portion of your market share. According to the USGBC's LEED Certification, concrete has the biggest advantage to achieve LEED points (second to floor coverings).

If you would like to know more about NRMCA's Sustainability Initiative...go to www.nrmca.org. I am looking forward to another great year!

A Chip Off the Old Block? 1st Grader Exhibits "Floating" Concrete

Mason "little bird" Montgomery exhibited floating concrete for his school. When picking a topic, he was adamant about wanting to do something with concrete. He turned to the association for input



and came up with the experiment, Can concrete float? Mason's hypothesis was yes, with styrofoam....and he was right. When asked what he used to make the concrete float, he said "we used cement, stirafomm, and wodr...instead of cement, wodr, and sande." (he meant to say the goal during our mix proportioning was to decrease the unit weight of conventional concrete of 142 lbs/cf to under the unit weight of



water, 62.4 lbs/cf. The beams unit weight ended up at 61 lbs/cf). For any producers interested in hiring Mason he will have his resume ready in about 14 years.

Safety News

MSHA: Aggregates Industry Improves Safety Record

Feb 25, 2009 -- Aggregates producers (excluding operators) saw the number of fatalities recorded in 2008 fall to seven, compared to 11 the year earlier, MSHA reported. In addition, the sector's injury incidence rate was 2.62 injuries for 200,000 hours worked, representing an 8 percent drop from the previous level of 2.86. This data demonstrates that 2008 was the eighth straight year in which the aggregates sector improved on its incidence rate. MSHA cautioned that the data would not be finalized until June.

Source: *Pit & Quarry*

SPCC Deadline Extension

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed extending the compliance dates for all aggregate facilities to develop and implement a Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) plan until November 1, 2009, according to a statement from the National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association. With various amendments to the SPCC rule in the last two years, this extension allows more time for facility operators to fully comply with the changes. Facilities in operation before August 16, 2002, are still required to maintain their plans during the interim.

The EPA announced a final rule that vacates the July 17, 2002, definition of "navigable waters" and restores the more narrow definition of "navigable waters" included in the original 1973 SPCC regulations. Only facilities that could reasonably be expected to discharge oil to "navigable waters" in amounts that might be harmful to those waters are required to have SPCC plans. The actual impact of the court's decision will involve fact-specific inquiries into the nature of water bodies in proximity to facilities and the potential for a release of oil to reach those water bodies.

Source: *Aggregates Manager Magazine* – January 2009



EPA proposes first national reporting on greenhouse gas emissions

"Our efforts to confront climate change must be guided by the best possible information," said EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson. "Through this new reporting, we will have comprehensive and accurate data about the production of greenhouse gases. This is a critical step toward helping us better protect our health and environment--all without placing an onerous burden on our nation's small businesses."

Mar 11, 2009 -- Developed under the authority of the Clean Air Act, the U.S. EPA recently proposed the first comprehensive national system for reporting emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases produced by major sources in the United States, including cement production facilities.

In developing the reporting requirements, EPA considered the substantial amount of work already completed and under way in many states, regions, and voluntary programs. According to EPA, approximately 13,000 facilities, accounting for about 85 percent to 90 percent of greenhouse gases emitted in the United States, would be covered under the proposal.

The new reporting requirements would apply to suppliers of fossil fuel and industrial chemicals, manufacturers of motor vehicles and engines, as well as large direct emitters of greenhouse gases with emissions equal to or greater than a threshold of 25,000 metric tons/year. The vast majority of small businesses would not be required to report their emissions because their emissions fall well below the threshold. The direct emission sources covered under the reporting requirement would include energy intensive sectors such as cement production, iron and steel production, and electricity generation, among others.

The first annual report would be submitted to EPA in 2011 for the calendar year 2010, except for vehicle and engine manufacturers, which would begin reporting for model year 2011.

EPA estimates that the expected cost to comply with the reporting requirements to the private sector would be \$160 million for the first year. In subsequent years, the annualized costs for the private sector would be \$127 million.

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

NRMCA Updates Cement Burn Prevention Program Module Added on Management and Legal Counsel

Feb, 05 2009 (Silver Spring, Maryland) -- The National Ready Mixed Concrete Association has updated its popular Cement Burn Prevention Program. This training program and kit provides the ready mixed concrete producer with tools that can be used to communicate the cement burn hazard to employees and customers. The revised kit includes truck decals, poster (with updated photographs), sample warning language, summary of tort issues surrounding cement burns, sample material safety data sheet and sample delivery ticket (which can be modified for the user's needs). A new module has also been added for management and legal counsel, covering successful strategies for communicating to customers about the potential for cement burns.

"The cement burn prevention program was updated with input from the NRMCA Operations, Environmental and Safety Committee to ensure that examples are industry-specific," said Steve Jones, director of safety and human resources at NRMCA member company Chandler Concrete and NRMCA Safety Task Group chairman. "One of the major additions to the program was to add a training module on preventing cement burns that can be used to train company employees."

"Cement burns are very easy to prevent with the correct PPE and training," added Gary Mullings, NRMCA's senior vice president of operations and compliance. "NRMCA is committed to producing materials that are ready mixed concrete specific to facilitate a faster transfer of knowledge."

"We benchmarked several NRMCA companies to look at how they tackled the duty to warn issue and presented it in a lessons-learned format," said NRMCA President Robert Garbini.

Ready mixed producers curtail drivers' on-road cell phone usage

Jan 15, 2009 2:15 PM -- Safety, fleet and equipment managers, along with other members of NRMCA's Operations, Environmental & Safety Committee, have increasingly cited company bans on drivers' use of cell phones while operating mixer trucks. OES Committee members' actions to promote safe driving practices are consistent with businesses surveyed by the National Safety Council, which is calling for a nationwide ban on cell phone usage by commercial and passenger vehicle drivers.

Many businesses have acknowledged the injuries and costs associated with vehicular cell phone use, NSC notes, and adopted policies barring employees from such activity. Among Council member businesses surveyed, 45 percent cited company policies prohibiting on-road cell phone use. Of those, 85 percent said the policies make no difference in business productivity. Stopping cell phone use while driving won't happen overnight, concedes NSC President Janet Froetscher, adding, "There will be a day when we look back and wonder how we could have been so reckless with our cell phones and texting devices."

A fact sheet, data resources and other information concerning cell phone use while driving are available at distracteddriving.nsc.org.

Safety group seeks total ban on cell phone use for all drivers

Jan 15, 2009 2:19 PM -- Citing fatality and crash statistics from a Harvard University study and other sources, the National Safety Council is urging businesses and state government leaders to ban all motor vehicle drivers' use of hand-held and hands-free cell phones for voice or text transmission.

"Studies show driving while talking on a cell phone is extremely dangerous and puts drivers at a four times greater risk of a crash," says Council President Janet Froetscher. "When friends have been drinking, we take the car keys away. It's time to take the cell phone away." Talking on a cell phone may be less distracting than some other activities drivers engage in, she adds, but the use of cell phones and texting devices is much more pervasive, making it more dangerous overall.

A study from Harvard University School of Public Health's Center of Risk Analysis estimates that cell phone use while driving contributes to 6 percent of vehicle crashes, equating annually to 636,000 accidents, 330,000 injuries, 12,000 serious injuries and 2,600 deaths, plus estimated damages of \$43 billion. NSC also cites a) University of Utah researchers' contention that hands-free devices do not make cell phone calls while driving safe; and, b) another study demonstrating that talking to passengers, versus into a cell phone, actually makes adult drivers safer, because passengers help alert drivers to potential risks.

"When you're on a call, even if both hands are on the wheel, your head is in the call, and not on driving," says Froetscher.

"Unlike the passenger next to you, the person on the other end of the call is oblivious to your driving conditions. The passenger provides another pair of eyes on the road."

Froetscher is sending governors and state legislative leaders letters promoting cell phone usage bans for drivers. She acknowledges that achieving and enforcing bans in all states will be a challenge, but notes that NSC has successfully faced similar vehicular safety issues, including laws mandating seatbelt usage. In a three-fold approach, the Council will advocate legislation; educate the public and businesses about the risk of cell phone use while driving; and, supplement distracted-driving content in its training of 1.5 million people annually in defensive driving.

Sources: National Safety Council, Itasca, Ill.; CP staff



OSHA Issues Final Equipment Rule

A final rule requiring employers to pay for employees' personal protective equipment (PPE) went into effect January 12th. The rule, issued by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, is intended to make it "unmistakably clear that each covered employee is required to receive PPE and training, and that each instance when an employee subject to a PPE or training requirement does not receive the required PPE or training may be considered a separate violation subject to a separate penalty."

Source: Rock Products Magazine – February 2009

NRMCA Introduces Training Program on Personal Protective Equipment

Wednesday, January 14, 2009 (Silver Spring, MD) – In its continual efforts to further reduce industry jobsite accidents, the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association (NRMCA) has introduced a Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Training Program. The program comes in the form of a CD-based PowerPoint presentation and instructor notes that are separated into a train-the-trainer section and four individual PPE modules for ease of training ready mix concrete personnel. A sample PPE assessment and welding shade guide is also enclosed. Finally, a quiz for every section and training documentation form is enclosed to help keep track of personnel training.

The aim of the program is to improve safety-related procedures at the plant level, said NRMCA's Managing Director of Compliance. Ideal instructors for the program include, but are not limited to, a concrete producer's safety, human resources and plant manager personnel. Click here for the product listing on NRMCA's Web site.

"The personal protective equipment training course was designed with input from the NRMCA Operations, Environmental and Safety Committee to ensure that examples are industry-specific, providing practical applications while also addressing our safety needs," said Steve Jones, director of safety and human resources at NRMCA member company Chandler Concrete and NRMCA Safety Task Group chairman. "We have broken the course down to a train-the-trainer module and separate modules of about 15 minutes each."

"The accident rate in the ready mixed concrete industry, while low compared to other industries, is still unacceptable and we must continue to address these very serious safety issues," added Gary Mullings, NRMCA's senior vice president of operations and compliance. "Accidents cause pain and suffering to the injured employee as well as a significant financial strain on a company's bottom line. This financial strain is translated into higher insurance premiums, lost and down equipment, injured employees, angry customers and community members and distraction from the company's main mission, which is to manufacture and deliver quality concrete safely every time."

"The personal protective equipment training course is another example of the ready mixed concrete industry's

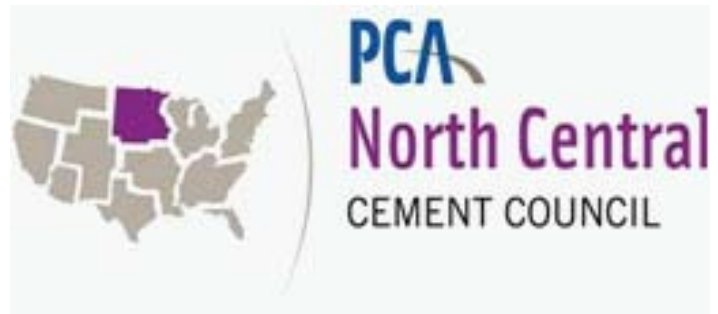
commitment to safety" said NRMCA president Robert Garbini.

NRMCA, based in Silver Spring, MD, represents the producers of ready mixed concrete and the companies that provide materials, equipment and support to the industry. It conducts education, training, promotion, research, engineering, safety, environmental, technological, lobbying and regulatory programs.

Industry News

Regional Cement Councils Assimilate with Portland Cement Association

PRESS RELEASE: Jordan, MN – January 23, 2009 --- Please be advised that as of January 1, 2009, the North Central Cement Council has integrated with the Portland Cement Association to become known as:



This integration will strengthen our position as we work together to advance product promotion and industry advocacy. It will also better align national, regional, and local programs. The integration will not change, but will enhance, the day to day relationship between our organization and our Promotion Partners and University Outreach Program participants.

We are excited about this new alliance and look forward to the synergies it can bring at our national, regional, and local efforts.

Obama Chooses His Secretary of Transportation

Dec 18, 2008 -- President-elect Barack Obama is set to nominate outgoing U.S. Rep. Ray LaHood, R-Ill., to serve as his secretary of transportation. LaHood is retiring from Congress this year after serving 14 years in the House where he currently serves on the Committee on Appropriations. He served on the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure until 2001.



Rep. Ray LaHood R-Peoria, President Barack Obama's new transportation secretary, speaks at a news conference in Chicago

LaHood, who hails from the president-elect's home state, is also close to Obama's incoming chief of staff, U.S. Rep. Rahm Emanuel, D-Ill. NSSGA's ROCKPAC was a long-time supporter of LaHood, who has earned a lifetime vote score of 85.1 percent from NSSGA on those congressional votes that were key-voted. In his congressional career, LaHood was a strong supporter of NSSGA's positions on transportation funding issues, including voting in favor of SAFETEA-LU and for restoring solvency to the Highway Trust Fund. LaHood represents Illinois' 18th Congressional District, which includes Springfield, Peoria and Jacksonville. Among his constituents are NSSGA member companies Caterpillar, Lafarge, Lehigh Hanson, Philippi-Hagenbuch, Prairie Material Sales and Vulcan Materials.

Source: Pit & Quarry

Photo: Gatehouse Media

LEED calculator tallies ready mixed 'green' benefits

Feb 9, 2009 1:04 PM -- Joining NRMCA's arsenal of tools to promote the green properties of ready mixed is the Recycled Content and Regional Material Calculator for the Concrete Industry (LEED calculator). An Excel-based program, it quantifies concrete's contribution to LEED 2.2 and LEED 2009 Recycled Content and Regional Material credits. The calculator allows input on project details, concrete producer, and other applicable data.

The program provides results in a single-page letter that can be submitted to the LEED Accredited Professional, project manager, or building owner. "The green building movement has really taken hold across the U.S., and the LEED calculator is one key tool that can help detail concrete's attributes to the desired targeted audience, such as a building owner or architect," affirms NRMCA Senior Director of Sustainable Construction Erin Ashley.



Further emphasizing the environmental and sustainable qualities of ready mixed concrete is NRMCA's first live, online course: Concrete's Role in Sustainable Development, beginning Monday, April 6, will focus on LEED 2009 to help participants understand and prepare for the new system. Orders can be placed at <http://my.nrmca.org/scriptcontent/BeWeb/Orders/ProductDetail.cfm?pc=2PLC1>

Source: National Ready Mixed Concrete Association, Silver Spring, Md.

At Glance: Federal Spending And The U.S. Deficit

According to FOX News, in the last two years, the United States has run up deficits that amount to a combined \$2.5 trillion dollars – about one-fourth of all the debt the nation has taken on in its entire history. The deficit for this January alone totaled \$83.8 billion, compared to a surplus of \$17.8 billion in January 2008. With eight months left in the current budget year, the deficit already has surpassed the deficit for 2008, an imbalance of \$454.8 billion.



The Congressional Budget Office has forecast that the deficit for the current budget year will hit \$1.2 trillion, but that estimate does not include the cost of the \$787 billion economic stimulus plan, signed earlier this month. Many private economists are forecasting that the budget deficit for the current year will hit \$1.6 trillion.

'Road bonding proposal heard by committee'

(Unicameral Update) -- The Legislature's Unicameral Update reports that the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee on Monday received testimony on LB401. The bill, introduced by Omaha Sen. Mike Friend, "would allow local governments to bond up to 75% of road projects, provided they can secure funding for at least 25% of the costs.

Eligible roads projects would cost at least \$30 million and would have to be approved by the Surface Transportation High Priority Council, newly created by LB401. ... The bill also would create a mechanism for issuing low-interest loans to local governments to complete surface transportation projects." David Brown, president and CEO of Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce, testified in support of the bill, as did representatives from the Lincoln and Columbus Chambers of Commerce.

Employee Free Choice Act . . . "Card Check"

On March 10, the Employee Free Choice Act (H.R. 1409 / S. 560), also known as "card check," was introduced. The legislation in the House has 222 cosponsors, down from 233 two years ago, but still four more than is needed to pass. The Senate bill was introduced with 39 cosponsors, down significantly from the last Congress. Eleven Democratic Senators who voted for the bill last time did not sign on as original cosponsors.

The members of the National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association along with the National Concrete & Aggregates Association oppose passage of this legislation.



Background:

The right to vote by secret ballot - free of all coercion, intimidation or inappropriate influence regardless the source - is fundamental to the American democratic process. The respect shown individuals inherent in the secret ballot process should not be stripped away from them for the sake of simplicity or convenience regardless of whether it is a vote to form a union or a vote to elect a member of Congress.

The card-check plan set forth by the Employee Free Choice Act would deny those who declined to sign the card or were not offered the opportunity to sign or decline to sign a card the right to participate in the process of recognizing a union.

A second provision that would allow a government bureaucrat in Washington, D.C. to impose a binding contract upon the employer and the union if the two sides could not agree on a contract within 120 days is equally as bad.

The current process, a secret ballot election overseen by the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), works. The only way to guarantee worker protection from coercion and intimidation is through the continued use of a federally supervised private ballot election so that personal decisions about whether to join a union remain private.

Industry Calendar

March 20 th	Friday Afternoon Concrete – Admixtures, Nebraska City
March 24 th /25 th	NDOR Concrete Plant Technician Level 2, North Platte
March 25 th	Concrete Floors and Moisture Issues, Council Bluffs
March 25 th	ACI-NE Breakfast Meeting, P2P, Omaha
March 27 th	Pervious Concrete, Scottsbluff
April 2 nd	ACI-National One Day Seminar, ACI 318, Omaha
April 3 rd	Concrete Overlays, Norfolk
April 7 th	NDOR Field Inspector Level 1, Kearney
April 8 th /9 th	ACI Field Testing Tech Level 1, Kearney
April 15 th	NC&AA Board Meeting, Lincoln
May 12 th	ACI-NE Golf Outing, Nebraska City
May 20 th	NC&AA Board Meeting, Lincoln
June 2 nd	Concrete Floors, Architectural Design Group, Lincoln
August 3 rd	NC&AA Board Meeting, York
August 3 rd	NC&AA Golf Outing, York Country Club
September 25	NC&AA Scholarship Fund Shoot
October 7 th	NC&AA Board Meeting, Lincoln
November 11 th	NC&AA Board Meeting, Lincoln
December 16 th	NC&AA Board Meeting, Lincoln



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