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CAST IN STONE

Fall 2009



Produced by The Oregon Concrete & Aggregate Producers Association

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President's Report



A recent front page article in the Oregonian discussed the personal hardships of the recession. It featured the emotional plight of an unemployed private worker who finally turned, after weeks of looking for work, to the state for assistance in feeding his family. I am sure this was a difficult personal decision for this family man to do. He absolutely made the right choice for his family setting aside his pride. As good fortune would have it, his subsequent visit to the Department of Human Services led to a job with the state processing food stamp applications.

What struck me about article and the subsequent opinion the Oregonian espoused, was that the new economy, the new jobs being created by the federal stimulus dollars, were public jobs handling the hundreds of thousands of private workers that have found themselves unemployed due to the current economic collapse. Puzzled by the concept advanced by the Oregonian, I wonder how growing government will help stabilize the economy and get people back to work. Who, for Pete's Sake, is going to pay this well deserving family man's salary?



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Steel, Asphalt Prices Rise Sharply in August; Concrete Declines Slightly



Steel, Asphalt Prices Rise Sharply in August; Concrete Declines Slightly
Steel and asphalt prices rose sharply in August, reversing nearly a year of declines from record high levels, according to the Department of Labor's monthly Producer Price Index (PPI). Steel prices rose 6.8% from July to August.

Asphalt prices increased 2.9%, and lumber was up 1.7% for its third consecutive monthly increase. Concrete prices decreased by 0.7%. Steel prices are down 36.1% over the record levels of one year ago. Over the same period, asphalt prices decreased 15.6%, lumber prices dropped by 8.1% and concrete prices increased by 0.6%.

Source: Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, as reported in the September 21 edition of the Portland Cement Association's Executive Report e-newsletter.

**Welcome
New OCAPA
Member:**



Westlake Consultant's Inc has been providing engineering, surveying and planning services for land development, utility, and roadway projects since 1983. Our firm, located in Tigard, Oregon, includes

How come the people in charge of our government are not understanding that ultimately the private sector has to create new wealth, not recycled dollars, to begin the process of economic healing for this state and the nation as a whole?

Oregonians will soon be voting on two tax measures that gained enough signatures this past week to repeal the Oregon legislature's attempt to raise corporate and personal income taxes. These two measures will raise \$733 million annually from primarily Oregon businesses to back fill the shortfall in the state's budget and the hiring of an additional 2600 state employees. OCAPA's Board has taken the position to oppose both of these measures. You have already received in the mail an invoice from OCAPA to help fund the campaign to defeat these two measures. While the assessment is voluntary, it is important that we do our part to help. The campaign may cost as much as four million, a small amount compared to what the tax bill will be for Oregon businesses if we are not successful in defeating these two measures.

However, it seems to me that though Oregon business is acutely aware of the financial burdens on business, the plight of unemployed workers, and the subsequent struggles of government trying to provide critically needed essential services resulting from this recession, still need to be addressed. Collectively, Oregon business supported the concept of "shared responsibility". A concept of business helping government collect enough financial resources to make sure essential services of education, health, and public safety are funded to a level where they are able to accomplish their core mission. The plight of the unemployed worker featured in the Oregonian's article is a shared responsibility. But healing the economy will not occur by taking more resources from the sector ultimately costing more private sector jobs. Defeating these two measures is a means to the end. The end has to be making sure we are protecting those in need while getting businesses back on their feet.

Richard Angstrom
President

READY MIX CONCRETE PRODUCTION STATS

The preliminary estimate of ready mixed concrete produced in July 2009 is 26.5 million cubic yards, 26% lower than July 2008. The estimated ready mixed concrete produced through July 2009 is 150 million cubic yards, 28% lower than for the same period in 2008.

	Oregon	US	Percent of US
1996	4,281,000	329,390,000	1.30%
1997	4,392,000	348,398,000	1.30%
1998	4,207,000	372,033,000	1.10%
1999	3,869,000	390,658,000	1.00%
2000	3,685,000	395,614,000	0.90%
2001	3,606,000	406,091,000	0.90%
2002	3,822,000	390,301,000	1.00%
2003	3,691,000	404,333,000	0.90%
2004	4,111,000	431,498,000	1.00%
2005	4,544,000	458,290,000	1.00%
2006	4,827,000	456,787,000	1.10%
2007	4,557,000	413,251,000	1.10%
2008	3,305,000	351,335,000	0.90%

Ready mixed concrete production is estimated from cement shipments reported by the U.S. Geological Survey.

a professional staff of 40 providing services to clients throughout Oregon and the Northwest. For the past 10 years, Westlake has also provided services for mines and quarries in the form of surveying (both boundary and topographic mapping), as well as engineering for storm water management, Best Management Services (BMP's), and quantity calculations.

Our investments in technology, both in the field and in the office, allow us to quickly obtain mapping data that can be used as a valuable planning resource for new and existing operations. We would also like to note that Westlake's experience is uniquely focused to provide surveying services to assist with the compliance of the recently passed Senate Bill 149, Division 30 rules for Surveys and Marking. For more information on our firm, please feel free to call or visit our website.

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Bernard R. Smith, PE, PLS,
Associate, Director of Engineering

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**RMC Foundation
Releases New Edition of
Popular LEED Guide**

The RMC Research & Education Foundation recently released the Third Edition of its Ready Mixed Concrete Industry LEED

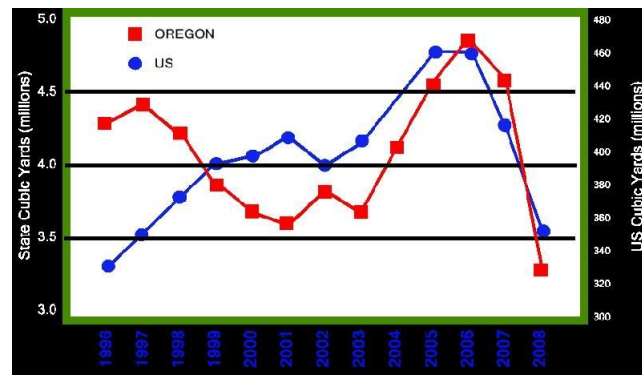
The Ready Mixed Concrete Industry supplies a valuable construction product to the transportation, building sector, residential and other construction markets. The industry is composed of varying sized family owned businesses to multi-national corporations. Since it is a perishable product ready mixed concrete production facilities are located in numerous metropolitan and rural locations and typically within 60 to 90 minutes traveling distance from any construction project.

It is estimated that there are about 6,000 ready mixed concrete plants that produce the product and about 70,000 ready mixed concrete mixer trucks that deliver it to the point of placement.

The ready mixed concrete industry consumes about 75% of the cement shipped in the US. Besides portland and blended cement it uses a large quantity of industrial byproduct material that would otherwise be considered waste products. These include fly ash from the coal burning power plants, slag from the manufacture of iron and silica fume from the silicon/ferro-silicon metal industry.

NRMCA estimates the volume of ready mixed concrete produced in the US using some validated assumptions and the data on cement shipments reported by the US Geological Survey of the US Department of Interior.

The value of ready mixed concrete produced by this industry is an estimated \$30 billion industry.



Article & Chart Source: NRMCA

Tech Tips

Our June 2009 Cast in Stone Technology Article



(<http://www.ocapa.net/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3314>) presented the beginning of a discussion on Alkali Silica Reactivity in aggregates and the test methods now more commonly being used or specified to evaluate aggregate

Reference Guide (LEED Guide). The revised edition, which details how designers, builders and architects can gain additional points as part of the United States Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program, includes new information on LEED 2009 for New Construction and Major Renovations. "Concrete has always been one of the more environmentally friendly building materials so it is only logical that its use would be ideal for LEED Certified building projects," said RMC Research Foundation Chairman Hardy Johnson. "This guide will be an important tool in helping concrete producers identify areas where they may improve the environmental performance of both their operations and their product. Architects, engineers and specifiers not already familiar with the energy saving and pro-environmental properties of concrete will learn a great deal from this guide as well," he added. "Many state and local municipalities are now requiring new government construction to be LEED Certified and the movement in private construction is gaining in popularity as well. The board of trustees together with the Portland Cement Association felt the development of this guide was essential to the education of builders seeking to become more involved in LEED projects," noted Foundation Executive Director Julie Luther.

sources for their potential to deleteriously react in concrete. For a number of years now, ASTM C1260 has been a test method used to evaluate aggregates and is being seen more commonly. If your aggregates are identified as having expansion greater than 0.10% using this method, then under ASTM C-33 your aggregates are identified as potentially deleterious and you may need to do some additional testing or evaluation of them to submit them for use on commercial projects. So far, the Oregon Department of Transportation has not implemented a testing protocol for ASR evaluation of aggregates used in DOT work but that may change over the next few years. Please take a look at the following link to the Federal Highway Administration page where the FHWA outlines their position to the DOT's throughout the US.

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/pavement/concrete/asrprotocols.cfm>)

Sticking to the commercial side of things, there are steps producers can consider taking to evaluate their aggregates for potential reactivity using ASTM C1293, a test method that is shown to more accurately represent how concrete made with your aggregates might perform in the field in the long term. ASTM C1293 Standard Test Method for Determination of Length Change of Concrete Due to Alkali-Silica Reaction outlines the procedure where one aggregate proposed for use in concrete is combined with the other size (sand or rock) of a known non-reactive aggregate source and then 3"x3"x11" concrete prisms are cast using those aggregates with a specified concrete mix design. The prisms are cast then stored for 1 year (2 years if an SCM* is incorporated) and measured for expansion over that time period. The length change is plotted and if the bar expansion at 1 year is less than 0.04% (This limit is expressed in ASTM C-33 in the annex on ASR reactivity) then the aggregate is considered non reactive and can usually be used freely in concrete. If the expansion is greater than 0.04% at 1 year then the aggregate may need to be used in conjunction with an SCM and be tested with that SCM to show that the ASR reaction does not take place or is "mitigated" by use of the SCM. One of the obvious drawbacks to this test is that it takes about 15 to 27 months to get results from the time aggregates are sampled.

If your aggregates have a measured ASTM C1260 expansion in excess of the C-33 annex limit of 0.1% (as many aggregate sources in Oregon do) you may or should consider having the aggregates tested using the C-1293 1 year method to get a result before you have a job that requires the tests.

An additional method of evaluating your aggregates for potential ASR reactivity is the ASTM C-1567 Standard Test Method for Determining the Potential Alkali-Silica Reactivity of Combinations of Cementitious Materials and Aggregate (Accelerated Mortar-Bar Method)¹. This is a modified version of the C-1260 test which is just over 2 weeks as well. In this test, your aggregates are crushed and used to make mortar

The LEED Guide is available for download from the Foundation's Web site at www.rmc-foundation.org. Hard copies are available for a nominal fee from NRMCA at www.nrmca.org.

The LEED Guide is also available as part of the Foundation's Research Supporting Sustainable Development CD.

Construction Starts Predicted to Climb



McGraw-Hill Construction, part of The McGraw-Hill Companies, released its 2010 Construction Outlook, which forecasts an increase in overall U.S. construction starts for next year. Due to improvement for housing from extremely low levels and broader expansion for public works, the level of construction starts in 2010 is expected to climb 11 percent to \$466.2 billion, following the 25 percent decline predicted for 2009.

[More](#)

NRMCA Green Star Program



Development in collaboration with the

bars which are soaked in a reaction solution for 14 days and length change measurements are taken regularly. The difference between this method and the C-1260 method is that in C-1567 you can add a SCM at any replacement level desired and this method can then be used to evaluate if your material is mitigated for ASR with that proportion of SCM. If this method results in an expansion less than 0.10% at 16 total days then your aggregate can be used in any concrete with the tested proportions of cement and SCM. This would mean that if your ASTM C-1567 test required 30% flyash replacement to achieve less than 0.1% expansion at 16 days then all concrete would have to be produced with 30% flyash for that job.

The moral of this story is that if you haven't yet seen a concrete specification requiring any of these tests, you may well see that job specification at any time in the next year or two. Since most producer's aggregates in Oregon will test at a level above 0.10% at 16 days in ASTM C-1260 most producers are likely to have to use some other evaluation technique (ASTM C-1293 or ASTM C-1567) to meet this specification, and with the least restrictive method taking one or more years to complete, forethought and planning are going to be needed to be prepared for these specifications when they are encountered.

An SCM is a Supplemental Cementitious Material such as flyash, Ground Granulated Blast Furnace Slag, natural pozzolan, Metakaolin or other materials with properties that react with the byproduct of cement hydration.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

We wanted to let you know the OCAPA Environmental, Health, & Safety Committee is busy planning several seminars for the coming year. Look for information shortly for a DOGAMI seminar to help answer significant new reporting questions on Senate Bill 149. This was the bill enacted by the 2007 Legislature pertaining to mine reclamation, operating permits, survey or marking of surface mining operations, and creates a crime of knowingly or causing substantial harm to human health or environment. You will have three opportunities throughout the state for this seminar that will be conducted by Gary Lynch and the DOGAMI staff. We are also planning a follow-up MSHA seminar. This seminar will take place at the first of the year and will provide an update of what has happened since the MSHA seminar last November.

Finally, the Committee is researching information to develop a "green" or sustainability seminar. We are in the process of arranging a meeting with Dave VanToff, the head of the Governor's Sustainability Committee, to see what direction the state will be heading on sustainability. As a result of this meeting we hope to be able to partner and participate with the Sustainability Committee on this issue.

We are excited to bring these opportunities and others to our

USEPA, the NRMCA Green Star Certification Program provides a template for the ready mix concrete industry to develop site-specific environmental management systems (EMS). The program offers a systematic approach to environmental management that enables producers to implement and monitor stronger pollution control and waste reduction measures.

Green Star recognizes those plants which adhere to essential principals of the environment stewardship and sustainability. Specifically, the certification is awarded to ready mix operations that have demonstrated an ongoing, proactive approach to environmental stewardship based on continuous improvement.

To read details about the NRMCA Green Star Certification Program and the benefits of achieving the certification, [Click Here](#).

Recycled Aggregates



Construction materials are increasingly judged by their ecological characteristics. Concrete recycling gains importance because it protects natural resources and eliminates the need for

membership and industry. If any of these topics have sparked an interest in you or if you have other suggestions, we would welcome your joining the Environmental, Health, & Safety Committee!

Thanks,

Sandy Hershfelt
OCAPA

PROMOTION COMMITTEE

The Promotion Committee plans and oversees any efforts to publicize or otherwise promote concrete & aggregate and it's projects. Highlighting concrete's environmental sustainability, cost effectiveness and life cycle longevity are focus points in this effort.



Goals and Objectives

- Promote the use of Ready Mixed Concrete (RMC) and aggregate by targeting decision-makers and influencers in key Oregon markets
- Seek out opportunities to promote the use of RMC and aggregate
- Create and maintain working relationships with trade and consumer media to present the benefits of RMC and aggregate in a positive manner
- Respond to inquiries pertaining to promotion, technical, design or care information on use of RMC and aggregate
- Raise awareness, understanding and support of the concrete and aggregate industry
- Position the industry as a good corporate industry

Getting our message out is our goal. This is accomplished in a number of ways which may include printed literature, getting involved with other building materials industry organization and governmental agencies, promoting concrete at the Legislative level and speaking/presenting at conferences, luncheons and seminars.

Currently some of our promotional efforts are:

Pervious concrete and DEQ recognizing it as an acceptable option for waste water run off. Preparing for the next Legislative session and possible transportation bills where concrete's first cost and life cycle cost should be an option for government projects.

disposal by using the readily available concrete as an aggregate source for new concrete or pavement subbase layers. According to a FHWA study, 38 states recycle concrete as an aggregate base; 11 recycle it into new portland cement concrete. The states that do use recycled concrete aggregate in new concrete report that concrete with recycled concrete aggregate performs equal to concrete with natural aggregates. Most agencies specify using the material directly in the project that is being reconstructed. For a summary of the findings, [click here.](#) Recycling of concrete is a relatively simple process. [More](#)

If you would like to be a part of the Promotion Committee, please call Sabrina Dikeman at OCAPA 503-588-2430 or email her at sabrina@ocapa.net.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

The main activities for the 2009/2010 Legislative Committee are two-fold. First, interpreting and acting on laws passed during the last session; and second, building stronger relationships with our legislators.



Our main focus will be supporting the ballot measure to repeal the law passed last session that increases taxes on all businesses within the state. Our goal is for OCAPA members to raise \$100,000 towards the estimated \$4.0M needed to wage a successful statewide campaign to get a NO vote on the measure.

Another law that passed is new Prevailing Wage Rules with temporary orders now in place. We have asked counsel to review and advise us on any implications to our membership.

We also are monitoring the DEQ activities on greenhouse gases reporting. We need, as an industry, to offer comments by October 9th to DEQ. Paul Hribernick is working on gathering the necessary information so we can offer a reasonable response.

Lastly, we would again ask all our members to continue to work on getting to know their local representatives better. By doing this, it will not only strengthen your own local business interests, but that of the industry state-wide.

Eric Muller, CEMEX USA
Legislative Committee Chair

Did you miss the OCAPA Legislative Report?

Click here:

www.ocapa.net/files/cast_in_stone

EXCELLENCE IN CONCRETE COMMITTEE

The EIC committee is hard at work this year preparing what we hope to be the best awards ceremony in the history of the event. New this year will be a venue move and a date change. The EIC Awards Banquet will take place at the Salem Conference Center located in downtown Salem, Oregon on May 14, 2010. The Conference Center is Salem's newest creation designed to reflect the natural beauty and relaxed lifestyle of the Willamette Valley. Adjoined to the Conference Center is the Phoenix Grand Hotel with spacious rooms and a popular restaurant. The centrally located venue for this year's



event will help minimize the travel for those that live in the southern and central part of the state.

Special thanks go out to past EIC Chairman Jim Lang. Jim has been an integral part of the EIC committee for several years and served as the committee chairman through challenging times. Fortunately Jim will be continuing on with the committee in addition to others that have contributed so much of their time to make this committee a success, those individuals include Jane Ellsworth, Scott Erickson, Keith Johnston, Kelly Alexander, Brad Moyes, Bill Montgomery, Pete Lucarelli, Kevin Richardson, James Wells, and Sabrina Dikeman. In addition, Erik Muller has joined the committee this year and has already brought valuable input to the meetings.

For the first time in the history of the EIC event all entries will be submitted on-line through the OCAPA website. The committee felt that this was a step in the right direction and would save countless hours and materials to process the entries. We are excited about these changes and look forward to seeing you all in May 2010 in Salem.

Fred Parish
Chairman EIC Committee



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