

December 15, 2014

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## Codes & Standards

### PCA Recognized as FLASH Legacy Partner at Annual Conference

PCA's role as an effective partner in the mitigation movement was on display at the recent Federal Alliance for Safe Homes (FLASH) Annual Conference, held last month in Orlando, Florida. Participating in various seminars were:

> Steve Szoke, PCA senior director, codes and standards, addressed how stronger codes are crucial for more sustainable and viable communities and their economical importance. "Resilience is not just about saving lives, it needs to be about saving livelihoods as well," Szoke stressed.

> Mark Justman, PCA vice president of market development and FLASH Board member, hosted a panel discussion on obstacles and opportunities in building rating systems, how to incorporate hazard resistance into life cycle cost analysis for residential buildings, and the ground-breaking work currently underway.

> Jeremy Gregory, MIT CSHub executive director, participated on a panel discussing incorporating resilience into residential construction. He shared ongoing research designed to quantify the cost of resilience to move material selection from only first cost to more of a balanced discussion including long-term performance.

PCA member Lehigh Hanson Inc., was recognized as a FLASH Conference sponsor and PCA was recognized as a FLASH Legacy Partner.

[Contact Mark Justman](#)

## Member News

### Lafarge Conservation Programs Grow through Wildlife Habitat Council Certification

Nine conservation projects at Lafarge North America sites across the United States were certified or recertified this year by the Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC). Six of these projects fall under WHC's Wildlife at Work program, which oversees voluntary efforts that go beyond regulatory requirements to restore and conserve wildlife habitats on corporate-owned land. The remaining three projects operate under WHC's Corporate Lands for Learning certification, which goes a step further by opening up corporate lands to the local community for educational use.

Sites include the cement plant and quarry in Alpena, Michigan; the cement plants in Ravena, New York, and Whitehall, Pennsylvania; Lordstown Construction Recovery in Warren, Ohio; Honey Island Aggregates, Pearl River, Louisiana; a terminal in Muskegon, Michigan; and Sun City Aggregates, Sun City, Arizona.

"WHC has been an invaluable partner in helping us fulfill our environmental

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PCA's renowned reference on the fundamentals of concrete technology and construction has been fully revised with the latest industry standards/specs.



## Meetings and Events

### 2015 NAHB International Builders' Show

January 20-22, 2015  
Las Vegas, Nevada

[More information](#)

sustainability goals over the years," says Craig Campbell, Lafarge U.S. vice president of environment. "These programs validate our sites' commitment to operate as integrated, non-disruptive members of the surrounding ecosystem, which is one of the values we hold as stewards of the land."

Since 2008, Lafarge has been working with WHC to restore and preserve habitats through projects that promote the diversity of native plants and animals. The Lafarge programs certified under WHC's Corporate Lands for Learning also serve as hands-on outdoor classrooms for local schools and community groups. Examples of these conservation initiatives include planting trees and shrubs to enhance habitats, establishing gardens that attract essential pollinators, mounting bird houses, building brush piles to provide cover for animals, and building and maintaining water supplies.

## Washington

### **Cement, Concrete Makers Pitch "Resilient Construction" at Senate Forum**

– On December 2, PCA and National Ready Mixed Concrete Association (NRMCA) hosted a forum for congressional staff outlining the benefits of resilient construction techniques within the context of model building codes and resilient infrastructure. Sens. Roy Blunt (R-MO) and Bill Nelson (D-FL) co-sponsored the event. Building on the passage earlier this year of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) of 2014, industry spokesmen from PCA, NRMCA, Lehigh Hanson Inc., and the MIT CSHub delivered a series of presentations underscoring the cost and safety benefits of resilient construction. Rep. Dan Webster (R-FL) kicked off the event, giving the audience the back story of moving one of the few bipartisan measures that passed into law this year, while Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL) discussed the policy rationales for H.R. 2241, the Disaster Savings and Resilient Construction Act of 2013. Approximately 40 industry representatives and congressional staff attended the event, which will be the first in a series on resiliency – underscoring the industry-supported elements and definition.

[Contact Bryan Brendle](#)

### **Cement Makers Urge White House to Retain Flexibility in Final Coal Ash Rule**

– On November 19, cement makers met with officials from the White House Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, which is currently reviewing the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) final rule on coal ash regulation. Industry representatives underscored the role of cement and concrete makers as the largest recyclers of coal ash and stated that classification of the material as "hazardous waste" would undermine an industry practice which diverts millions of tons of coal combustion residuals (CCRs) from landfills every year. While industry representatives continue to search for specific information related to the final rule, which is expected to classify coal ash as "solid waste" per broader industry advocacy, EPA is under a court-ordered deadline to issue a final determination by December 19.

[Contact Bryan Brendle](#)

**EPA Proposes CISWI Reconsideration** – The EPA placed a republication version of the [proposed rule for reconsideration of the Commercial/Industrial Solid Waste Incinerators \(CISWI\) final rule](#) on its web site on December 2. Comments are due 45 days after publication in the Federal Register. In the notice, EPA is granting reconsideration of four specific issues, two of which are particularly relevant to kilns: the particulate matter limit for kilns and the definition of a kiln. PCA will submit comments on the proposal.

[Contact Tom Harman](#)

## Market Intelligence

### **PPIs Up Compared to 2013; Lumber Dropping**

November's Producer Price

### **World of Concrete**

February 2-6, 2015  
Las Vegas, Nevada  
[More information](#)

### **Full-Depth Reclamation Symposium**

February 10-11, 2015  
Greenville, South Carolina  
[More information](#)

### **PCA Spring Board and Committee Meetings**

April 7-9, 2015  
Chicago, Illinois  
[More information](#)

### **2015 IEEE-IAS/PCA Cement Conference**

April 26-30, 2015  
Toronto, Ontario  
[More information](#)

### **International Cement Microscopy Association Conference**

May 3-7, 2015  
Seattle, Washington  
[More information](#)

### **PCA Fall Committee Meeting**

August 31-September 1, 2015  
Chicago, Illinois  
[More information](#)

### **PCA Fall Board Meeting**

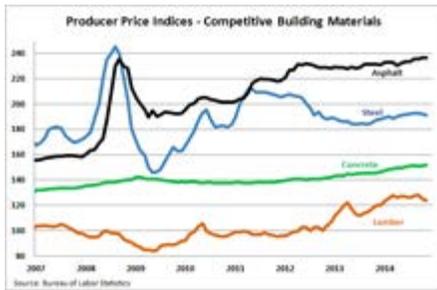
November 16-17, 2015  
Laguna Niguel, California  
[More information](#)

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America's Cement Manufacturers™

The Portland Cement Association conducts market development, research, education, and government affairs work on behalf of its members —cement companies in the United States.

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Indices (PPIs) for asphalt, lumber, concrete, and steel each increased from year ago levels, as they have each month of the year. Steel, lumber, and concrete rose 2.1 percent, 4.3 percent, and 3.3 percent, respectively. Asphalt rose 2.3 percent as it maintained

its record high that was reached in October.

Data from recent months suggest that the lumber PPI is cooling from its rapid ascension in both 2012 and 2013. It has dropped a combined 3.5 percent in the past two months. The less-than-anticipated number of housing start this past year were likely the factor for largely flat or declining lumber PPI since March.

Though asphalt has maintained its peak PPI level, look for it to decline from the relatively stable plateau it's been on since 2012 due to recently falling oil prices. Typically there is a three to six month lag before a change in oil price is reflected correspondingly in asphalt price. Additionally, iron ore price declines, combined with recent steel surpluses, may fuel a drop in the price of steel in the coming months.

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## Member News

### Greg Barger Recognized with Bryant Mather Award



ASTM International has recently honored Gregory Barger (pictured [right] with Paul Tennis, PCA), technical director for Ash Grove Cement Company, with the ASTM Committee C01 Bryant Mather Award. The Bryant Mather Award recognizes outstanding merit in support of the mission of Committee C01 on Cement.

Barger was recognized for his efforts to develop and improve C01 standards and for advancing the body of knowledge related to producing, characterizing, and controlling the quality of portland and blended cements.

Barger has been a member of ASTM Committee C01 on Cement for more than 25 years and is active on multiple subcommittees responsible for specifications, test methods and other standards. He was made an honorary member of the Committee in 2009. He is also a member of ASTM Committee C09 on Concrete and Concrete Aggregates, and several American Concrete Institute international committees. He is also an active member of PCA's Product Standards and Technology Committee.

[Contact Paul Tennis](#)

## Education & Training

### NCPTC Board Plans Publications, Education for 2015

The Board of the National Concrete Pavement Technology Center met December 3 in Scottsdale, Arizona, in conjunction with the American Concrete Pavement Association annual meeting.

The Board reviewed the extensive activities of the Center for 2014 and plans for 2015. In Technology Training for 2014, the Center completed 56

presentations (2,964 people), 14 workshops (812 people), and three webinars. For 2015, the Center plans to hold eight presentations in January and February, with an additional eight workshops and 13 webinars in the first quarter.

Key publications distributed the past year include updated versions of the *Preservation Guide*, *Concrete Overlay Guide*, *Concrete Overlay Solutions for Joint Performance*, and *Performance History of Concrete Overlays*. New publications planned for 2015 include *Plans and Specifications for PCC Overlays*, *Concrete Pavement Distress Manual*, *Concrete Overlay Over Cement Treated Asphalt Millings*, and *3D Engineered Models for Construction*.

Tom Beck, Continental Cement Company, Lori Tiefenthaler, Lehigh Hanson Inc., and Steven Kosmatka, PCA, represent the cement industry on the Board. For 2015, Ash Grove Cement Company, Holcim (US), Lafarge North America, Lehigh Hanson Inc., and CEMEX USA have made sponsorship commitments.

[Contact Steve Kosmatka](#)

## Education & Training

### Vote Now for Crews That Rock at World of Concrete 2015



[Voting](#) is now open for the fourth annual World of Concrete (WOC) Crews that Rock competition. Sponsored by BASF Corporation, Crews that Rock honors concrete and masonry construction crews for their teamwork and contributions to the industry, as displayed in outstanding 2014 projects. Voting deadline is December 26.

World of Concrete 2015 will be held in Las Vegas on February 2-6, 2015. The largest, most comprehensive commercial concrete and masonry event for the concrete industry features more than 1,500 exhibitors and more than 100 seminars and conference sessions.

As a cosponsor, PCA offers discount admission to exhibits. By registering through PCA and using promo code A32, exhibit admission is only \$20, a \$40 savings.

Additionally, PCA receives a rebate from Hanley-Wood based on the number of pre-registered attendees who come to the show.

[For discounted registration, click here](#)