

# PCA Executive Report

Weekly News About Cement, Concrete, Construction, and the Portland Cement Association

August 25, 2014

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The next issue of the *Executive Report* is scheduled for September 8, 2014.

## Association News

### There Is a PCA App for That



PCA will be using a mobile application for the Fall Meeting, August 25-26, at the InterContinental Hotel Chicago. The app will provide up-to-the-minute information such as the latest agenda, updates, speaker information, feedback opportunities, maps, an attendee list, and more.

PCA's app is password protected. Once you have accessed the app, attendees will be prompted to establish a

password, using the e-mail that was used to register for the conference.

To get the PCA Meetings mobile app:

- > iPhone and iPad users - search "PCA Meetings" on the Apple App Store.
- > Android users - search "PCA Meetings" on the Google Play Store.
- > Blackberry, Windows, others - go to this address on your computer or smart phones (omit www): <https://pcameetings.gatherdigital.com>

All meeting rooms at the hotel will have WiFi available.



### Design and Control of Concrete Mixtures

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



## Washington

### Daines Tours Ash Grove Cement Plant in Montana City

U.S. Rep. Steve Daines (R-MT) last week toured the Ash Grove Cement Company manufacturing plant in Montana City, Montana. The event included a briefing of the cement manufacturing process, followed by a walk-through of the facility.

The congressman is an influential member of congressional committees that are critically important to cement producers, including the Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure and the Committee on Natural Resources.

Ash Grove's Montana City plant supplies cement for infrastructure and other construction projects throughout Montana and the northwest region. The facility employs 79 Montanans and supports an additional 800 local jobs. The event, a collaborative effort between Ash Grove and PCA, was covered by the Montana [media](#). The Congressman also posted a [photo](#) from the event on his [Facebook page](#).  
[Contact Collin Long](#)

## Regional News

### Meetings and Events

**PCA Fall Committee Meeting**  
August 25-26, 2014  
Chicago, Illinois  
[More information](#)

**WOTUS Fly-In**

## PCA Presents Inherent Advantages of Concrete at West Point

On Thursday, August 19, Lawrence Novak, director of structural engineering at PCA, and Pat Reardon, executive director of the PCA Northeast Region, presented to the civil engineering cadets and faculty at the United States Military Academy at West Point (USMA). Their interactive seminar touched on building big and secure incorporating the inherent advantages of concrete construction, including resilience and sustainability.

West Point was the first American college to have an accredited civil-engineering program and its technical curriculum was the model for later engineering schools.

PCA Northeast has long recognized the value of supporting an active college and university program to expose future engineers and decision makers to cement based applications. It donated 45 copies of PCA's *Design & Control of Concrete Mixtures* to the USMA Civil Engineering Department and most recently sponsored LTC Curt Decker to the PCA Professor's Workshop.

Contact Larry Novak or Pat Reardon

## Market Intelligence

### PPI Year-Over-Year Increases



July's Producer Price Indices (PPI) for asphalt, lumber, concrete, and steel each increased from year ago levels for the second consecutive month. Asphalt, steel, and concrete saw relatively modest increases of 2.2, 3.6, and 3.9 percent, respectively. Lumber rose by the most it has on a percentage basis so far this year (13.2 percent).

On a month-to-month basis, there was minimal movement among the four competing materials. Concrete rose a slight 0.5 percent, while asphalt and steel stayed flat. Lumber declined by 0.4 percent from June. Further acceleration in housing starts, particularly annualized growth of 20 percent, would likely renew upward relative pressure on the lumber PPI.

Contact Joe Chiappe

## Washington

**WOTUS Legislation Likely to be on House Floor in September** – Setting up what may be a vote on the House Floor the week it returns from its August recess, the Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure filed its [Committee Report](#) for legislation addressing the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' proposed 'Waters of the United States' rule on July 31. Among other provisions, H.R. 5078, the Waters of the United States Regulatory Overreach Protection Act, would require EPA and the Corps to vacate the proposed rule and interpretative rule. Filing the Committee Report will cap cosponsors at the current number of 120. In coordination with the National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association and the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association, PCA will host a [fly-in](#) focused on the recently proposed WOTUS rule on September 18. Contact Justin Louchheim

**South Dakota Delegation Visits GCC Of America** – GCC of America, in coordination with PCA, hosted key staff of Senator John Thune (R-SD) and Congresswoman Kristi Noem (R-SD) on August 11 at its Rapid City, South Dakota, cement plant. The hour-long briefing included discussion of GCC of America's footprint in the state and a broader industry perspective. Extensive back-and-forth discussion also centered on some of the logistical challenges facing the cement industry, particularly in the upper Midwest, including rail service and rates, motor carrier driver shortages, and recent

September 18, 2014  
Washington, DC  
[More information](#)

**Design and Control of Concrete Mixtures: The Course**  
October 20-23, 2014  
Skokie, Illinois  
[More information](#)

**PCA Fall Board Meeting**  
November 16-18, 2014  
Scottsdale, Arizona  
[More information](#)

**Full-Depth Reclamation Symposium**  
February 10-11, 2015  
Greenville, South Carolina  
[More information](#)

**PCA Springl Committee and Board Meeting**  
March 23-24, 2015  
Chicago, Illinois  
[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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**PCA**  
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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waterways bottlenecks.  
[Contact Justin Louchheim](#)

**PCA, CEMEX Meet with Rep. Rahall in WV** – On August 13, PCA and CEMEX met with Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV), ranking member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and a member of the Cement Caucus, in his Huntington, West Virginia, district office. Industry participants discussed a wide range of issues affecting the cement and concrete manufacturing industry with Rahall. CEMEX operates two cement distribution terminals in the congressman's district that supply cement for infrastructure and other construction projects throughout the region.  
 Contact Tom Harman

**Cement Makers Pitch Resilient Building Codes to Climate Task Force** – Cement manufacturers met with staff in the office of Houston, Texas, Mayor Annise Parker on August 20 to discuss strategies to promote more resilient communities, pursuant to the goals of the Obama Administration's Council on Climate Resilience. On August 28, cement makers will meet with staff in the office of Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley, who also sits on the task force. On August 12, PCA staff met with staff from the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), which is managing the council's activities, to share information related to resilient building codes, per the request of White House staff. PCA also discussed how cement makers can continue to work with the council following completion of the mayors' report, due in early November.  
 Contact Bryan Brendle

## Codes & Standards

### One Standard to Rule Them All

Although the first edition of the International Code Council (ICC) *International Green Construction Code* (IGCC) has been a joint effort involving American Institute of Architects, ASTM International, American Society of Heating Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), ICC, Illuminating Engineering Society (IES) and U.S. Green Building Council, there remained three sets of compliance options for the design and construction of green, high performance, or sustainable buildings: ICC IGCC first published in 2012, ASHRAE 189.1 *Standard for the Design of High-Performance Green Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings* first published in 2009, and USGBC *Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design* unveiled in 2000.

Last week, ASHRAE, ICC, and USGBC [announced](#) that ASHRAE 189.1 will provide baseline metrics and other technical requirements and be aligned with the prerequisites of LEED and IGCC. In addition, the IGCC will be modified to be an adoptable and enforceable version of ASHRAE 189.1, and LEED will continue to be developed independently as a voluntary rating system. The IGCC requirements are expected to serve as alternative prerequisites for LEED compliance. This agreement clarifies the roles of each of the parties and is expected to improve the acceptance and increase use of green building design and construction criteria.  
 Contact Steve Szoke

## Manufacturing

### Jura Cement and European Cement Refractory Association Host Seminar

Registration is still available for the seminar "Refractory Materials and High Temperature Corrosion in Cement Kilns" in Wildegg/Lenzburg, September 24-25.

The service life of refractory materials is an important cost factor in the clinker burning process. The lifetime of the refractory lining depends on a multitude of factors and above all on local stresses due to mechanical, thermal and chemical attack. Besides the right choice of materials, the proper installation of the refractory affects the lifetime of the lining. To prevent damage during operation the condition of used refractory material must be correctly assessed during maintenance and winter outages. The seminar will give an overview of the relevant questions regarding current refractory technology and includes a visit to Jura Cement in Wildegg,

Switzerland.

This seminar is of particular interest to process engineers, plant design engineers, refractory experts, maintenance engineers, plant managers and kiln engineers.

This seminar is now open for registration via the [ECRA website](#).