PRESS RELEASE

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OLDCASTLE MATERIALS: WARM-MIX ASPHALT PIONEERS

The Shelly Company, an Oldcastle Materials company recently reached the 1 million ton warm-mix asphalt (WMA) milestone for the 2010 construction season – a quarter of their total asphalt production. This goal was reached just three years after initial discussion of using WMA, bringing their total to more than 1.8 million tons since 2007. The Shelly Company was the first company in the state of Ohio to initiate WMA.

"Oldcastle has more than 100 WMA plants producing an estimated 4 million tons this year," said Ron Sines, P.E., vice president of operations for Oldcastle Materials. "We expect to easily exceed this amount, especially with strong market presence in Ohio, Missouri and Texas."

The first Oldcastle Materials WMA project dates to 2005. Using synthetic zeolite, an additive used in the production of WMA to decrease temperature, employees at Pike Industries in New Hampshire paved an overlay of an access road at one of their quarries.

But the real push came from the National Asphalt Pavement Association, according to Sines. NAPA introduced WMA to the United States from Europe in 2002 and championed it to reduce worker exposure to asphalt vapors, for its workability and uniform density, and the ability to extend the paving season.

Idaho Sand & Gravel (IS&G) recently completed a 40-lane mile WMA project for The Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) that originally called for HMA. The $2.6 million, 41,000-ton project was completed in August and was the first all WMA project completed in the state.

"ITD is pleased to have partnered with IS&G," said Shawna King, project engineer. "From an end product, mix testing and acceptance standpoint, there is little to no noticeable difference between the WMA and conventional hot-mix. We now understand that the benefits of mix produced at a lower temperature are great in saved energy costs and reduced emissions and fumes."

The mix used by IS&G used 22 percent by weight of reclaimed asphalt pavement, making WMA a truly sustainable paving material. In addition, the project captured 95 percent of the available quality control incentive and 75 percent of the smoothness incentive available; showing WMA is a quality material which will exceed existing specifications.

The most common response from customers regarding the use of WMA is a concern about loss of performance, Sines said. “It’s important to Oldcastle Materials that we maintain or enhance the value to taxpayers for the infrastructure dollars that they are spending on any innovation that is a replacement for HMA.”

In 2010, Oldcastle Materials purchased approximately 50 WMA conversion kits; another large-scale purchase for another 30-40 facilities will take place by year’s end for conversations slated for 2011.

Considering the many variables involved, such as temperature, mix and customer specifications, Oldcastle Materials companies continue to monitor the product. The Shelly Company’s quality control department performs rigorous testing to ensure quality and customer satisfaction. Educating and working with industry regulators such as Ohio Department of Transportation also has been helpful in efforts to use WMA in county, township and other customer-related projects.

“We are making a serious and significant commitment to produce WMA in the near future and to market ourselves as a green producer,” said Sines. “We are using mechanical foaming technologies and equipment, which allows us to gain the pavement performance benefits, and keep the industry competitive.”

Headquartered in Atlanta, Ga., Oldcastle Materials is the leading vertically integrated supplier of aggregates, asphalt, ready mixed concrete and paving services in the United States with 1,400 locations in 44 states.

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