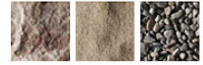


December 23, 2005

National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association



2005: A great year for PMD!

As the holidays roll around, PMD members can look back with pride on a year of accomplishment for their association.

One of the highlights of PMD's work in 2005 was taking the lead in responding to the American Society of Government Industrial Hygienists' (ACGIH) misguided proposal to lower the Threshold Limit Value (TLV) for pulverized CaCO₃. PMD hired noted industrial hygiene expert Roger McClellan to prepare comments to ACGIH and began raising concerns about ACGIH's activities on Capitol Hill. As a direct result, there are now rumblings that various congressional subcommittees are considering holding hearings early next year to look into the use of ACGIH TLV's by federal agencies.

**Merry Christmas
and happy
holidays from your
friends at PMD and
NSSGA!**

In 2005 PMD also conducted the first-ever political and economic survey of its members. Among other things, the survey found that:

- Despite being relatively few in number, PMD members have a significant economic footprint, with combined revenues in 2004 of more than \$1.74 billion;
- The pulverized CaCO₃ industry is highly capital intensive, with PMD member capital investment in 2004 approaching \$104 million;
- PMD has a geographically diverse membership that employs more than 4,700 workers at more than 61 facilities in at least 27 states; and
- The manufacturing of pulverized CaCO₃ is highly energy intensive, with PMD members consuming more than 1.5 billion kilowatt hours of electricity and close to 153 million therms of natural gas in 2004.



The full survey report is available at: <http://www.nssga.org/pmddivision/2005PMDSurveyReport.pdf>.

Finally, PMD held a successful annual meeting in Washington, D.C. in October. The meeting featured an extensive discussion of the ACGIH issue by McClellan, as well as presentations from representatives of the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) and National Paint and Coatings Association (NPCA). As part of the meeting, PMD members were briefed by Jay Martin, legislative director for Rep. Denny Rehberg (R-MT), on how to make the most of visits to congressional offices and the organization's leaders met with Hill staff to discuss the association's public policy priorities.

It was a great 2005, but we're looking forward to an even better 2006.

PMD Spring Technical Meeting takes shape

Mark your calendars! Planning is underway for PMD's Spring Technical Meeting, which will be held in conjunction with NSSGA's Annual Meeting in Tampa, Florida on March 8.



Speakers already confirmed for the meeting include:

- Michael Hinrichsen of Caterpillar, Inc., who will discuss new CAT products and their applications in our industry;
- David Fowler, Ph.D., director of the International Center for Aggregates Research (ICAR) at the University of Texas, who will discuss the use of pulverized CaCO_3 as a filler in concrete; and
- Steven Fuller, Ph.D., an leading economist with George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, who will share insights about the likely health of the U.S. economy over the next year and what it means for PMD member companies.

The program will also feature presentations from NSSGA staff about environmental, regulatory, and government affairs issues. The meeting agenda is still taking shape, so if there are topics or speakers you think would be of common interest to your industry colleagues, please let us know.

Look for registration information in early January.

PMD GPRs now online

PMD's General Procedure References (GPR) for CaCO_3 have been posted on NSSGA's Web site and are available at: http://www.nssga.org/pmdivision/General_Procedure_Refernces_for_CaCO3.pdf.

Procedures in the document include: 325 Mesh Sieving; pH Testing; Particle Size Analysis: Sedigraph 5100; Particle Size Analysis: Cilas 920; Particle Size Analysis: Cilas 715; Color Measurement: Brightness; Fineness of Grind; Moisture; Surface Treatment; and PMD Surface Area Analysis.