The Precast Concrete Association of Virginia

PCAV

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NEWSLETTER

Hard Facts

December 1999 Vol. 2, No. 2

The Precast Concrete Association of Virginia is dedicated to the growth of the Precast Concrete Industry. We will educate specifiers and end users as to the advantages and proper utilization of products and systems, and we will represent the industry in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

When environmental impact is considered – precast concrete is the only way to go

By Jim Olsen

In today's business and cultural climate, protecting our natural resources and the planet is not only necessary, but also good practice. The precast concrete industry is also responsible for protecting our children's future way of life. This industry is unique in that in many ways it has virtually no impact on the environment, while in other it can have a major impact.

No impact

Major concrete ingredients – sand, stone and cement – are mined. No trees or plants are destroyed. Most precast forms are made from steel, not wood. And unlike other primary construction materials, precast concrete is produced with a minimum of chemicals.

Due to strict quality control, there is very little waste in precast concrete. In most plants, even the concrete mixer was water is recycled for use the following business day. Solid concrete from plant clean up is hauled to landfills or used as clean fill at the plant.

Big impact

Concrete products have a long service life, which eliminates the need for replacement. Precast concrete products require less construction time in the field, which means projects can be completed faster. Precast products allow for less disruption of the construction site, less waste and less erosion due to storm runoff.

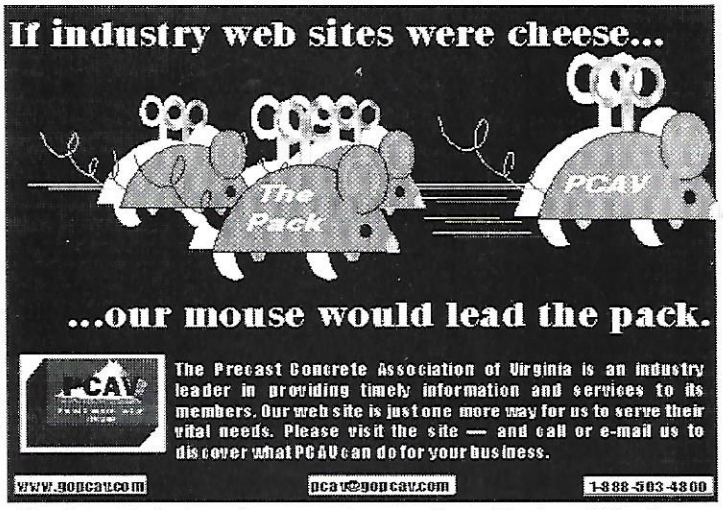
Precast products include structures for storm water management ponds, box culverts, precast inlets, reinforced concrete pipe for storm water control manholes, pump stations and utility vaults for sanitary sewers and force mains.

Most underground precast products assist in meeting EPA requirement for storm and sanitary sewer control. At the same time precast products have a positive impact on clean water.

Transportation products such as median barriers, bridges and highway drainage structures contribute to more efficient road and rail routes. These efficiencies cut travel time and therefore eliminate air pollution from combustion engines.

The obvious choice

Given a variety of considerations, especially those related to environmental impact, it is clear that precast concrete products are the way to go. Precast concrete is a green product and contributes much to maintaining a clean environment for us, our children and future generations. In short, life without precast is less healthy, less prosperous, less enjoyable and certainly less green. Think "green," think precast concrete in the New Millenium.



Our latest industry ad appears in a number of trade publications.

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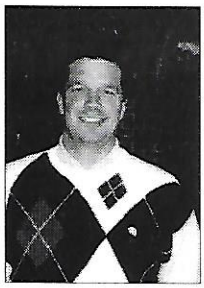
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Scott Crumpler, *President,* PCAV



Message from the President

The Precast Concrete Association of Virginia was constituted for the purpose of acting as a single voice for the precast industry in the commonwealth. It was our collective desire to be proactive in addressing the inevitable changes that affect the construction industry. We concluded that forging a strong relationship with the Virginia Department of Transportation was central to that effort.

The past couple of years have seen that relationship beginning to mature, and we have ventured into more contacts on the municipal level. Continuing in that direction, while not losing effectiveness on the state level, is an on-going challenge. More interaction with the colleges and universities that educate and train future workers in our industry is essential. Through these efforts, we can pursue opportunities to further our mission of educating specifiers and end users of our precast systems. After all, it is likely that these graduates will either be using our products in the construction business, or they will play a role in specifying construction materials and systems.

We are dedicated to the growth of the precast industry in the commonwealth. Through an effective, statewide network of committee members, working on common goals, we will ~~continue to~~ contribute to the expansion of opportunities for our member firms. That is the essence of our existence. Let us work together to achieve that goal!

Reflecting on Wintergreen

Ty Gable, president of the National Precast Concrete Association, gave the keynote address at PCAV's 1999 annual conference at Wintergreen. His remarks about the state of the industry were simultaneously enlightening and well received. He reported that on the national level, there are 5,400 precast producers – most of them family owned – that employ about 183,600 people. Collectively, we contribute in excess of $22 billion to the national economy, and we purchase about 20% of the cement consumed in the United States

Thanks to the national survey conducted by NPCA, it appears successful precast companies share three prevalent traits: They control costs. They enjoy a frequent turnover of inventory. They control receivables.

While precast is the fastest growing segment of the construction industry, we face many challenges. Customers will demand higher quality and lower prices. Competition will increase at the same time as more mergers and acquisitions are completed. We, as producers, will need to adapt to a changing workforce. As we move rapidly into the digital age, precast concrete must be positioned and viewed as a "high tech" product. We must become more reliant on automation and less so on labor.

As alternate materials continue to probe deeper into the traditional concrete markets, Gable urged each of us to work harder to expand our own opportunities.

W. Scott Crumpler

Hard Facts newsletter is published twice yearly by the Precast Concrete Association of Virginia as a service to its members. Submissions, story ideas, letters to the editor, comments, etc. are encouraged and welcomed.

Wintergreen in a nutshell

By Marie Derby

Despite the arrival of Hurricane Floyd, the 1999 Annual Convention of the Precast Concrete Association of Virginia was held Sept. 16 and 17 at Wintergreen Resort. As a result of the storm, attendance on the first day of the conference was down about 50%.

The second day of meetings attendance rose to just 55%. And the Golf Outing had to be cancelled; though a few brave souls squeezed some play in during the afternoon. Entertainment by ventriloquist Steve Brogan was quite amazing. Friday's agenda featured Ty Gable, President of the National Precast Concrete Association and David Conner, Regional Vice President of NUCA. For the first time, we had presentations from associate members.

The response to the speakers and overall conference has been very favorable. I hope to continue the associate presentations at the 2000 convention. I would like to thank Jim Richmond for his assistance as golf chairman, and for helping reorganize the conference at the last minute due to the hurricane.

Member Company News Briefs

Bayshore Concrete Products

Best wishes to Al Harrell on the occasion of his retirement. Al served PCAV on the Bridges & Structures Committee and the Marketing & Promotions Committee.

Americast

Welcome to Don Anger, who's joined the Operations Team. Don was most recently with DCA Consulting. He is a past president of PCAV.

CSR Hydro Conduit

Jim McDill has relocated from the DC area to a new position in Indiana. Steve Hoesing has been appointed by CSR as its representative to the PCAV Board of Directors.

Winchester Building Supply

Best wishes to Jim Olsen who has left WBS to pursue an opportunity outside the precast industry. Jim has been an active member of PCAV, representing WBS since 1992 on the Board, serving as Vice President, and as an active contributor to each of our standing committees.

BridgeTek

Welcome to Jeff Rickard, PE to its Virginia staff.

Committee Reports

PIPE: The committee is working toward creation of a CD-Rom to disseminate to engineers and municipalities. It will compare and contrast concrete pipe with alternative materials.

SPECIFICATIONS & MATERIALS: The committee is working on descriptions for the products pages of the PCAV website.

MARKETING: PCAV representatives displayed association information at the VMI Conference in Lexington, held Oct. 21 and 22. They will do likewise at several other scheduled conferences, including:

HRUHCA's Earth Works Expo 2000, April 5 at the Virginia Beach Pavilion.

APWA, May 15-17 in Virginia Beach.

VRTBA Contractor/ Engineer Conference, March 30-31 (tentative) in Roanoke.

VRTBA Summer Meeting, July 13-17 in Virginia Beach.

Virginia Engineers Conference, September 2000 in Virginia Beach.



Calendar of Events

TIME	DATE	EVENT
January 18	10:00 am	Joint Meeting with VDOT
	12:30 pm	Associates Luncheon
	2:00 pm	Board of Directors Mtg.
February 4-9		NPCA MCX '00
February 15-17		33rd Annual Mid-Atlantic QA Workshop
February 22	10:00 am	Executive Committee Meeting
March 21	9:00 am	Committee Meetings
	11:30 am	Board of Directors Meeting & Luncheon
March 30-31		Contractor/Engineer Conference Roanoke
April 5		HRUHCA Earth Works EXPO & PCAV Seminar Virginia Beach
April 11	10:00 am	Executive Committee Meeting
May 15 - 17		APWA Conference - Virginia Beach

New EPA Standards in Effect

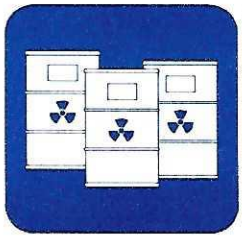
By Mark Porreca
A.L. Patterson, Inc.

Federal EPA stands on volatile organic compounds (VOC) contents took effect in September. Despite previous delays, the EPA finally has resolved the allowable limits and we do not expect any more surprises.

In everyday production, form release agents are subject to these regulations. VOC are typically solvents, i.e. liquids that dissolve other things. Solvents can come in the form of mineral spirits or even water. When referring to solvents, however, federal and state regulators generally mean diesel fuel, benzene, xylol and similar VOC solvents.

How are they measured?

These compounds give off a substance (organic material) when heated to 225 degrees Fahrenheit. Federal standards are 450 grams per liter, so the new federal EPA standard doesn't eliminate but rather regulates allowable quantities.



Individual states may have more stringent regulations than the federal government. For example, New Jersey, New York and California are currently requiring a limit of 250 g/l. So you need to be aware of what product is being shipped where. Chances are you may be required to meet a particular state regulation, regardless of where your product is manufactured.

While a good quality reactive form release chemically changes and the carrier (be it mineral spirits, etc.) evaporates and nothing is actually transferred to the concrete doesn't insure that the destination state will accept this argument.

The best policy, if you want to be sure to cover all the bases, is to adhere to the most stringent EPA state requirement on each of your products.

What about water-based releases? They are not necessarily user friendly or EPA compliant. They can be toxic and/or carcinogenic. MSDS sheets alone do not necessarily determine EPA friendliness either. Check labels and specification sheets. As form releases, they sometimes are hard to use, subject to viscosity changes due to temperature fluctuation, and Class I or Class II finishes also are difficult to achieve.

In closing, a reminder: In the struggle to meet deadlines, produce high quality product and still show a profit, we sometimes forget with form releases that application procedures are as important as product quality.

If you are interested in more analysis regarding form releases, contact me at (800) 332-7090. I can send you two brochures that go into more detail on this subject.

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