

FALL 2009

Issue 2

OHIO Precast Concrete Association

NEWSLETTER



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From the Director:

"Fall"ing Notes:

Now that the " busy" (misuse of word) season is all but over and everyone is digging in for the winter, it is important to remember to keep contacting your elected representatives and senators, keeping the pressure on them as they decide the fate of many issues.

Contacting your legislators by email and phone are popular methods, however, the "old fashion" pen and paper mailed letter, can sometimes carry more weight. We need to make sure that our voices are heard. Some of the proposed National legislation that can

affect our line of business include the EFCA (Card Check Bill), National Health Care (recently passed in the House) Cap & Trade, just to mention a few. If you need addresses, phone numbers or any other information regarding your legislator, please email or call the OPCA office.

Lawmaker wants Sick Pay for workers with Swine Flu

A senior House Lawmaker is asking Congress to guarantee paid sick leave to workers if their employers ask them to stay home with H1N1 (swine flu) OR a similar contagious illness. House education and Labor Committee chairman George Miller (D) of California, says his measure (H.R. 3991) would protect about

50 million workers with no paid sick leave. Many of those employees work in low wage jobs in food service and hospitality where they could make others sick he states. Miller continues, those workers shouldn't have to choose between their paychecks and the health of co-workers or customers. The bill would cover

employees in businesses with 15 or more workers. Businesses that already offer at least 5 days paid sick leave would be exempt. A hearing will take place this month. Miller plans to seek a quick floor vote.

OSHA “Stimulated”



A reminder as the stimulus funded projects continue, OSHA has been tasked with a heightened presence on these jobs. This could involve our companies on subcontract work or just having a delivery truck on the job at the

wrong time. We must remain vigilant and up to date on our safety programs and also on our delivery equipment. In these tight economic times, government agencies, especially OSHA or DOT could be looking for extra revenue. Let's not give them the opportunity to

collect it! So be aware when transporting your product to a jobsite, of what action could possibly lead to a big headache for all.

“Government’s view o. the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidies it!”

Ronald Reagan

Saving Tips During Tough Times for work and home!

- 1) Work up a business budget, determine where to cut back.
 - 2) Sublease, share or rent smaller space.
 - 3) Conserve your resources
 - 4) Reduce utility bills; turn off lights, lowering heat.
 - 5) Renegotiate rate/finance charges on credit cards.
 - 6) Direct deposit payroll will cut expenses and time.
 - 7) Ask creditors to lower interest rates on loans.
 - 8) Check bank statements carefully for added fees that maybe written off.
 - 9) Cut back on travel/entertainment expenses.
 - 10) Negotiate with suppliers; this does not mean “beating them down to the last nickel” but work with them to see how you can save through adjustments in buying. These adjustments could be quantities purchased, efficient shipping, etc., remember your suppliers are partners in the long term.
 - 11) Possibly offer a 4 day work week.
 - 12) Be conscious of where all the money is being spent and think of other ways to save it.
 - 13) Have your accountant help with money saving tips.
 - 14) Always consider the return on your investment when you spend money.
 - 15) Review all insurance policies at least once a year with your agent for possible savings, such as, higher deductibles. Periodically obtain competitive bids.
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FYI:

Voluntary Compliance Program for Precast Concrete Septic Tank Manufacturers

Purpose: After July 1, 2007, in accordance with Am. Sub. H.B. 119, each local government agency responsible for issuing permits for the installation of home sewage treatment systems has the responsibility of confirming that the tanks used on such systems are both watertight and structurally sound. The purpose of this voluntary compliance program is to assist the Ohio Department of Health, count health departments and other applicable agencies meet their obligation under Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 120.02(c) (3) and establish a method of implementing a consistent, statewide program for the approval of concrete septic tanks.

Under the prior provisions of Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 3701-29-11(B), septic tank manufacturers were required to submit information on their tanks to the Ohio Department of Health in order to have their tanks placed upon an approved list of septic tanks qualified for use on home sewage treatment systems.

Under the suspended code, tank manufacturers were required to submit the following information:

1. Proof of structural soundness
2. Design specifications and structural capacity for each model of tank
3. Proof of watertight assurance
4. The assurance review method intended to be used by the tank manufacturer

In order to assist the various governmental departments in implementing the intended quality assurance provisions of the suspended Administrative rules, the membership of the OPCA proposes to voluntarily comply with the rules by submitting the required information as follows to the Ohio Department of Health.

The purpose for submitting this information is to assist the ODH in compiling a list of approved tanks for use on home sewage treatment systems. The list of approved tanks would be maintained by the ODH in the same manner as intended under the provisions of the suspended rules. Local health districts would then be able to rely on the approved list in order to meet their requirement, under ORC 120.02 (C) (3), of assuring the structural integrity and watertight assurance of tanks being installed within their jurisdictional boundaries.

More information on this topic can be found at our website, www.ohioprecast.org

Click on "Links" go down the list to: OPCA Voluntary Approval Program w/ODH

Mark Your Calendars! 2010 OPCA Annual Conference!

March 7th and 8th, 2010

Preparations are being made for the 2010 OPCA Conference. We will be traveling to Canton, home to the Pro Football Hall of Fame. The event will take place at the recently remodeled Holiday Inn of Canton. Also nearby is the Harry London's Chocolate factory, Canton Classic Car Museum and President McKinley National Memorial. You will be receiving more information in the future.

Thank you.

Concrete Corrosion: The Death of a Septic Tank

By Sam Lines

Not all septic tanks are created equal. And not all conditions for the onsite treatment of waste water are the same. It is no secret that concrete is susceptible to deterioration due to acidic corrosion. Where there is a misconception is in the manufacture of the concrete and the curing of the precast product. Not all concrete is created equal. Just because a problem existed with one septic tank does not justify the statement that all concrete septic tanks will corrode. The precast concrete manufacturers, as well as their customers, must become better informed about the cause of corrosion, and the methods to keep it from happening.

First and foremost, a concrete formula with a low water to cementitious materials ratio is critical. A water to cementitious ratio (WCR) of .45 is significantly more resistant to Microbial Induced Corrosion (MIC) or sulfuric acid (H_2SO_4) degradation, than a 0.48 WCR. But in moderate to severe conditions, a 0.45 is not even low enough. A mix design with a WCR of 0.40 or lower is necessary with good aggregates having gradations that allow for minimal void spacing. Increased fines help to densify the hardened concrete and reduce permeability. The acid attacks the sulfates and the aluminates in the concrete through continued wetting and drying. **A dense, low permeable concrete is the first line of defense.** Here is a test for precasters: using a 28 day old cylinder, cured in air after 24 hours, pour some water on the top of the cylinder. See how quickly the water absorbs into the concrete. Typically the cylinder will continue to absorb water 3-4 times before being fully hydrated. This concrete has more porosity and the concrete will have a decreased resistance to sulfate attack.

Secondary cementitious materials like fly ash, silica fume, and slag have been shown to decrease permeability by reacting with free lime left after initial hydration to create additional calcium silica hydrate (C-S-H) the glue in concrete. Other materials, either as additives in the concrete, or as a post strip applied sealer, have also demonstrated an increased resistance to corrosive attack by reacting with calcium oxides (CaO) and mineral salts, in the presence of water (H_2O), to create Calcium Silica Hydrate (C-S-H), the glue in concrete. This reduces permeability. When picking out a penetrating sealer or concrete additive, look for products that mention "crystallization" within the pores of the concrete.

Another correlation found regarding deteriorating septic tanks is that an area with high sulfur content in the well water creates a higher risk. Not all concrete tanks in these areas are affected though. One explanation is that the sulfur content in the water is a dominate component, but it does not guarantee that the Sulfur Oxidizing Bacteria (SOB's) in the air space will be present in a concentration high enough to produce H_2SO_4 .

Another component that seems to promote the acid production is an environment where the air space does not vent properly. One theory is that if the sewage line from the house to the tank was not properly installed, then a "trap" could be created whereby the septic tank is not able to vent through the house vent. There is no evidence supporting this currently, but this thought does have some merit and is worthy of consideration when determining a root cause.

There are many out there who do not understand the chemistry of concrete, and they assume that if one concrete tank deteriorates, then all tanks deteriorate. We (the concrete associations and precasters) need to educate specifiers and engineers about this topic more. Also, producers who think a 4,000 psi mix is all they need to worry about are wrong. Producers need to consider the entire matrix, gradations, water cement ratio, etc. when designing their mix.

And lastly, most precasters are negatively impacting the product quality by shortening the curing cycle to 24 hours, or generally less. Cement takes days and weeks to fully hydrate and by stripping in 16 hours, we stunt this process. Add to this that some tanks are assembled within 24 hours and placed on the storage lot, and you have created another problem with a highly humid environment inside the casting, and a dry environment on the outside. This leads to shrinkage cracking on the exterior surfaces.

Ohio Precast Concrete Association Website Insight

www.ohioprecast.org

Just a reminder to everyone about the website and the opportunity for those who would like to sell any equipment, forms etc. These may be posted for sale at no cost to you. Please let the office know if you have any trucks, trailers, tractors, forklifts or any other machinery, etc. that we may help you sell.

Also, if there are any changes in the information we have

posted online for your company or contact person, please let the office know as soon as possible. We are able to correct information only on what we are informed.



NPCA 2010 Precast Show

The 2010 NPCA Precast Show has been scheduled for February 18th thru the 20th at the Phoenix Convention Center in Phoenix, AZ. For more information please go to www.theprecastshow.org Our own Sam Lines, of Concrete Sealants, will be one of the instructors for Production and Quality School (PQS) Level I at NPCA Precast University during the show.

Producer Members

E.C. Babbert, Inc.
J.K. Precast
Lindsay Concrete Products
Mack Industries
Norwalk Concrete Industries
Poland Concrete Products
Portage Septic Tank
Premier Precast Products
Quaker City Septic Tanks
Scioto Valley Precast
Sickles Septic Tanks
Spoerr Precast Concrete
Stiger Precast, Inc.
Uniontown Septic Tank
United Precast, Inc.

2009 Members



Associate Members

Champion Pump Co.
Concrete Results, Inc.
Concrete Sealants, Inc.
Engineered Wire Products
Euclid Chemical
Hamilton Kent
Infiltrator Systems
Jet, Incorporated
Norweco
Ohio Electric Control
Polylok, Inc.
Ring Industrial Group
Sika Corporation
Spillman Company
St. Mary's Cement
Tuf-Tite, Inc.

Motto to Live By

Life should not be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways, body thoroughly used up, totally worn out, and screaming, "WOO HOO, what a ride!!!"
Anonymous

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.ohioprecast.org

The purpose of the Ohio Precast Concrete Association shall be:

- 1) To promote and facilitate the acquisition and exchange of practical knowledge among its members;
- 2) To encourage the development of the art of manufacturing precast

concrete products;

- 3) To create a standard of excellence in manufacturing;
- 4) To promote the use of precast concrete products; and
- 5) To cooperate on behalf of the precast concrete industry with others

interested or involved in that industry or in related industries, directly or through their associations, in matters involving the business, technical and governmental affairs of the precast concrete industry.

About Our Organization

The OPCA is a group of Producer Members and Associated Industries cooperating together as an association. The intent being to bring pertinent issues and information which impact the precast industry, to the attention of government agencies which participate in the origination of these issues. The OPCA is interested in

assisting these agencies by providing expert advice and counsel in the development of regulations involving the industry and the general public. The OPCA has Producer and Associate Members whose products and services range from the construction of buildings and highways; servicing the funeral industry;

to the manufacture of precast concrete products for the treatment of commercial and residential waste water. OPCA member products and services affect the lives of nearly every Ohioan on a daily basis.

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