

# cement industry update



Issue 31, April 2006

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## Industry News

### Civic Trust Awards

The awards recognise the very best in architecture, urban design, landscaping and public art. They are awarded to projects of the highest quality design, but only if they also made a positive contribution to the local environment and helped improve the places where we live. BCA shared sponsorship of the awards, and a table at the presentation evening, with The Concrete Centre on 30 March. Further information on [the Civic Trust website](#).

### Thermal Treatment of Waste Conference

The conference, due to take place at the end of April, was cancelled because of lack of support. The BCA and Dave Bagshaw, Plant Manager at Ketton, prepared a cement industry presentation. The industry plans to capitalise on this work and organise its own workshop on the industry's use of wastes as fuels. Proposals are being developed which would complement the stakeholder engagement programme.

### CPA Annual Lunch

BCA hosted a table at the event on 25 April where the guest speaker was Jack Lemley, Chairman of the Olympic Delivery Authority. Guests included Stewart Davies, Sustainability Commissioner, Martin Wright, Editor of Green Futures, Aled Jones, Cambridge Programme for Industry and Alan Bromage, The Concrete Centre.

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## Sustainability

### BCA Comments on DTI's Energy Review Submission

Energy represents an escalating component of the variable cost of cement manufacture – now over 60%, taking account of electricity and kiln fuel. It is therefore a prime concern to the industry to take all cost effective measures to improve energy efficiency and thereby reduce emissions of carbon dioxide. The BCA submitted comments on the DTI's review, '*Our Energy Challenge – Securing Clean, Affordable Energy for the long term*'. A copy of the submission can be viewed on the [BCA website](#).

## Energy Efficiency

Cembureau, the European Cement Association, welcomed the European Commission's Green Paper on Energy Efficiency as it puts the emphasis on competitiveness and the Lisbon agenda; environmental protection and the EU's Kyoto obligations and security of energy supply to the EU. But it regretted the lack of any reference of the negajoules (negative joules or energy savings) which can be obtained by fossil fuel substitution. Further information on the [Cembureau website](#).

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## Health & Safety

### Health and Safety Commission appointment

John Spanswick has been appointed to the Health and Safety Commission. Mr Spanswick will have a key role helping to integrate and promote the construction industry's participation in the development and delivery of the Health and Safety Commission's strategy and programmes. He will take up the post on 1 May. Mr Spanswick has worked for Bovis for forty years. He is currently Chairman of the Major Contractors Group and also Chairman of the Strategic Forum Health and Safety Group.

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## Parliament Update

### REACH

The European Chemicals Bureau (ECB) is working on the REACH Draft Final Technical Guidance Document (TGD) on RIP 3.10 Substance Identity. It contains general considerations to establish the 'substance identity', as well as some examples for which the procedure is illustrated; Portland cement clinker is among those examples. The ECB is trying to introduce the following comments in the cement clinker example:

*"Council proposal, Annex III (Exemptions from the Obligation to Register) the following substances which occur in nature, if they are not chemically modified: Minerals, ores, ore concentrates, cement clinker, natural gas... As Portland cement clinker is made by sintering, and thus chemically modified, cement clinker seems not to be exempted from registration."*

This clearly shows that a misinterpretation of the Council's Political Agreement is being made and that the Interim Strategy is possibly being misused to try to introduce alternative views on the scope of registration into the TGD. This has been pointed out to the UK representatives on the TGD 3.10 from DEFRA and the

HSE and support has been sought from DTI. DTI subsequently informed BCA that the Austrian Presidency raised this very issue with the Commission at its REACH conference last week. The Commission responded that it will look again at the RIP documentation to make sure it reflects the political agreement text accurately.

## House of Commons question on cement kilns

Andrew Lansley (MP South Cambridgeshire) on 18 April 2006 asked the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) what discussions she and her department has held with the energy and cement industries on the use of waste as a power source for cement kilns.

Ben Bradshaw, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, DEFRA: The Government recognises the value of Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) as a positive energy source. Therefore the Governments Waste Implementation Programme (WIP) commissioned RPS consultants in September 2005 to approach industrial intensive energy users to establish interest in using solid recovered fuel (SRF) as an alternative energy source to compete with current fuels. A workshop was held in London on 17 January 2006 attended by ten industrial companies and a potential SRF supplier at which the benefits and relative economics of this approach were presented and discussed.

Phase 2 work is about to be commissioned involving the preparation of a more detailed generic proposal describing possible development and financing structures along with refined economics.

WIP is aware of discussions between developers of mechanical and biological treatment (MBT) plant and cement companies with the aim of securing outlets for SRF. This outlet route is not well developed and contracts are usually of short duration for limited tonnages. For this reason, WIP is endeavouring to stimulate alternative RDF outlets with intensive energy users or in purpose built energy recovery facilities.

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## Consultations

### Worker involvement in Health & Safety Risk Management

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has issued a Consultative Document to seek views on how to encourage, improve and increase worker involvement in health and safety risk management.

Geoffrey Podger, Chief Executive of the HSE said: "Workers know the most about the jobs they do, so they are often in the

best position to develop safe and practical systems of work. Effective worker involvement can reduce accidents and ill health. It is fundamental to ensuring the success of all other interventions on health and safety."

Deadline for comments: 8 September 2006. Further information on the [HSE website](#).

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## Events

### Soil Stabilisation: The Sustainable Option

Soil stabilisation offers a sustainable and economic solution to deal with poor quality land. This seminar gives an introduction to the process and will use case studies to demonstrate the wide range of applications that are suitable for treatment by stabilisation techniques. Birmingham, 4 May and London, 18 May. [Further information](#).

### Concrete Fever

Visit the BCA stand at the British Precast conference in Leicester on 11 May. Further information on the [BCA website](#).

### Concrete Communications Conference

The conference will focus on sustainability; structural design; modern materials; performance and construction. University College London, 5-6 September. Further information on [www.cementindustry.co.uk](http://www.cementindustry.co.uk).

### Cement and Concrete Science

Sheffield Hallam University, 11-12 September. To register interest or submit an abstract, please contact RJ Mangabhai, Tel: 0208 9083762. Email [r.j.mangabhai@btinternet.com](mailto:r.j.mangabhai@btinternet.com)

### International Symposium on Concrete Roads

The plenary sessions will be held around three major themes, Concrete Roads and Sustainable Development; urban pavements and rural roads and special topics in materials, applications and processes. 18-22 September, Brussels. [Further information](#)

### Living with Minerals 2

Making and sustaining the link between minerals, the economy and our way of life. 6 November, Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre. [Further information](#).

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## Berthold Lubetkin Memorial Lecture

Daniel Libeskind, architect of the Ground Zero project, London Metropolitan University Graduate Centre, Imperial War Museum North and Grand Canal Performing Arts Centre will be the guest speaker at this fifteenth annual lecture.

Kensington Great Hall, London, 9 November. Further details details to follow – please consult the [BCA website](#).

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## BCA in the News

### BCA Media coverage for March

Article	Media	Issue
Jeff Sautin: MD of Lafarge Cement UK	Global Cement & Lime	March 06
Cement industry dismisses concerns over emissions breaches	Letsrecycle.com	1 March 06
Homeowners feel the heat from green regs	Contract Journal & Contractjournal.com	8 March 06

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