

cement industry update



Issue 42, May/June 2007

features

Industry news

- BCA's 100th council meeting
- New chairman for BCA
- CEMEX UK announces butterfly conservation partnership
- CEMEX UK appoints vice president to improve cement and building product quality, services and sales
- Hanson accepts £8bn takeover bid
- New look for cement industry website
- Cement industry national stakeholder forum
- CEMEX UK Operations announces performance improvements in all cement plants

Sustainability

- Working towards sustainability 2

Health and safety

- Aberthaw and Hope's shining safety record

Public affairs update

- New government
- UK National Minerals Forum
- Cement industry meeting with Baroness Young
- Labour Party Conference
- BCA attends All Party Minerals Group Lunch
- Waste Framework Directive

Consultations

- Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Select Committee inquiry on pre-legislative scrutiny of the draft Climate Change Bill
- European Commission consultation regarding Article 30 of Directive 2003/87/EC concerning the review of the EU GHG emissions trading scheme

BCA news

- Media coverage for May/June

www.cementindustry.co.uk

Standards and technical

- Soil mix remediation technology (SMiRT)
- REACH

[Back to top](#)

Industry News

BCA's 100th council meeting

On 30th May the one hundredth BCA council meeting was held at BCA HQ in Camberley. Following the meeting there was a small lunch gathering to celebrate the occasion. Mike Gilbert, BCA Chief Executive gave a short address including highlights from the first ever BCA council meeting held in 1988.

New chairman for BCA

At the 100th council meeting the chairmanship of the BCA was officially handed over from Jean-Francois Sautin (former Managing Director of Lafarge Cement UK) to Clive James (Tarmac Building Products Director). Clive has been a member of BCA Council since autumn 2004 and brings significant industry experience across the cement and concrete industry to BCA's busy agenda.

CEMEX UK Operations announces butterfly conservation partnership

CEMEX UK Operations has announced its partnership with Butterfly Conservation as its charity of the year. The partnership was launched to coincide with the start of the butterfly flight season in a presentation to the president of the Butterfly Conservation, Sir David Attenborough, at London Zoo on 2nd May.

CEMEX UK Operations appoints vice president to improve cement and building product quality, services and sales

CEMEX UK Operations has appointed Graham Russell as Vice President of Commercial and Building Products. He is responsible for the commercial activities for CEMEX UK's cementitious business and management of the company's ready-mix products including concrete.

Hanson accepts £8bn takeover bid

UK building materials firm Hanson agreed to an £8bn takeover bid from Germany's biggest cement maker Heidelberg Cement.

The deal has created the world's second-largest company in the sector, employing 70,000 people.

New Look for Cement Industry Website

The redesigned cement industry website (www.cementindustry.com.uk) went live on 18 June. The new look site includes sections on sustainability and key issues. BCA responses to government consultations as well as BCA press releases can be downloaded from the site

Cement Industry National Stakeholder Forum

The British Cement Association will hold the third annual UK cement industry National Stakeholder Forum at Lafarge Cement Hope works in Derbyshire on 18 July. As in previous years, the Forum will focus on an issue of key interest to our national stakeholders. This year the main purpose of the Forum will be to consider the cement industry's progress towards its sustainable development goals. BCA published a second *working towards sustainability* report in May which charts progress towards the cement industry's objectives on sustainability since November 2005 (when the first report was launched). This report will form the backbone of the workshop.

This year's Forum will be chaired by Jane Forshaw, Chief Executive of CL:AIRE (Contaminated Land: Applications in Real Environments), an independent not-for-profit organisation established in 1999 to stimulate the regeneration of contaminated land in the UK by raising awareness of, and confidence in, practical and sustainable remediation technologies.

CEMEX UK Operations announces performance improvements in all cement plants

CEMEX UK have recently announced improved productivity at all three of its cement plants which together achieved world-class efficiency levels of 95.4% in the period January to June 2007. This has resulted in an increase in production of 13 per cent compared to the same period last year.

Current production performance is being complemented by significant environmental improvements including the use of alternative fuels, which have been increased by 75% over the last 2 years. There have also been award-winning health and safety performance at all three plants, this year recognised by gold medal awards from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents(RoSPA).

In the longer term, CEMEX is working to ensure increased availability of blended cements. Work has already started on a £27 million new grinding plant at Tilbury in Essex. The development will increase CEMEX's UK cement capacity by 20%

from 2008 further contributing to supply continuity.

[Back to top](#)

▪ Sustainability

Working towards sustainability 2

The British Cement Association has published working towards sustainability 2, the second report on the progress towards sustainability for the UK cement industry.

Since the publication of the first report by the Sustainable Development Task Force in November 2005 which set a strategic vision and a series of objectives, the UK cement industry has made good progress with all UK cement manufacturers working hard to improve their sustainability. Working towards sustainability 2 reports progress which includes a reduction of direct CO2 emissions by 28% giving CO2 savings of 3.7 million tonnes, fossil fuel consumption cut by 22%, one million tonnes of waste-diverted material diverted from landfill as 15% of kiln fuels, 5% of virgin raw materials have been replaced by waste-derived materials and a 27.7% improvement in specific energy consumption.

A copy of the report can be downloaded from www.cementindustry.co.uk

[Back to top](#)

▪ Health and Safety

Aberthaw and Hope's shining safety record

Lafarge Cement's Aberthaw and Hope Works have both achieved a year without a Lost-Time Injury (an injury that prevents an employee or contractor returning to work the next day) to any of their combined 300-plus workforce or onsite contractors.

[Back to top](#)

▪ Public affairs update

New Government

Gordon Brown became Prime Minister on 27 June. His Cabinet includes both new and familiar faces, with new Ministers at Defra and CLG. Dti has been replaced by the Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and a Business Council for Britain has been established.

The cement industry will be making its introductions to the new

Ministers in the coming days.

UK National Minerals Forum

The UK National Minerals Forum (NMF) held its inaugural meeting on 11 May. BCA is a member of the NMF. Other organisations represented include DEFRA, DCLG, DTI, QPA, CBI Minerals and the British Geological Society. The Forum considered its scope, aims, terms of reference, structure and membership. It proposed to establish five working groups each covering a key issue, with the Forum reporting its outputs to the third Living with Minerals conference being held in November 2008.

Cement Industry meeting with Baroness Young

The BCA Council met Baroness Young, CEO of the Environment Agency and her senior team on 29 May to discuss key developments both within the industry and at the Agency over the last year.

Labour Party Conference

BCA will be co-sponsoring a fringe event at the Labour Party Conference (24-26 September in Bournemouth) in partnership with SERA (the Labour Party Environment Campaign) and the NHBC. The subject of the meeting will be Zero Carbon Homes – How do we get There from Here? Housing Minister, Yvette Cooper, is expected to be on the platform.

BCA Attends All Party Minerals Group Lunch

BCA attended the All Party Minerals Group Lunch on 12 June, at which the guest was Paul Hudson, Chief Planner in the Department for Communities and Local Government who spoke about the new Planning White Paper. During the lunch, the group also held its AGM and Bill Oler MP was re-elected as co-Chair of the group. Following the lunch, the CBI Minerals Committee extended an invitation for the All Party Group to make site visits including a variety of different operations.

Waste Framework Directive

Contrary to expectations, political agreement was reached by Environment Ministers on the proposal to revise the Waste Framework Directive at the Council meeting held on 28 June. While not ideal, the overall result for the cement industry is fairly positive. The focus of activity will now return to the European Parliament for the second reading.

[Back to top](#)

▪ Consultations

BCA has submitted responses to the following consultations:

- Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Select Committee inquiry on pre-legislative scrutiny of the draft Climate Change Bill
- European Commission consultation regarding Article 30 of Directive 2003/87/EC concerning the review of the EU GHG emissions trading scheme

[Back to top](#)

▪ BCA in the news

Media coverage for May/ June

Article	Media	Issue
Cement Supplies	Politics.co.uk	15 May 2007
Change of Chairman	Politics.co.uk	14 June 2007
Cement industry achieves climate change target	Politics.co.uk	22 June 2007
Cement industry making clear strides towards its sustainable development goals	Politics.co.uk	27 June 2007
Cement Supplies	Builders' Merchants News	June 2007

[Back to top](#)

▪ Standards and technical

Soil mix remediation technology (SMiRT)

The BCA is a supporting Partner for a £1.2 million development project lead by Bachy Soletanche Ltd into an innovative cement based remediation technology. BAE Systems Environmental is providing a site in Scotland to accommodate full size plant trials. The lead academic institution is Cambridge University and the DTI are matching the industry funding. The DTI Offer letter and collaboration agreement was signed in May 2007 and should enable the three year project to start in October 2007.

REACH

The REACH Regulation (**R**egistration, **E**valuation and **A**uthorisation of **C**hemicals) came into force across the European Economic Area (EEA) on 1 June. It provides a framework legislation for the management, control and use of chemicals and will eventually replace a 'patchwork' of over 40 separate pieces of legislation including (in 2009) the, so called, Chromium (VI) Directive on cement. The lead authority on policy in the UK is DEFRA but the HSE will lead on enforcement in the areas of Registration and information in the supply chain.

REACH is one of the most complex pieces of legislation impacting upon industry and its full implications will only become apparent over time. However, under REACH, only materials/products defined as chemical *substances* can actually be Registered although there are some implications for *'preparations'*. The cement industry maintains that Portland cement is a *preparation* whereas Portland cement clinker is a *substance*. Clinker has obtained an immediate exemption from Registration but which is reviewable within the year to 1 June 2008. To date, the major implication for cement and clinker is that Safety Data Sheets (SDS) are needed for both of these 'dangerous' (i.e. Irritant) materials, ideally formatted in accordance with guidance drafted in support of REACH. The lead group in BCA for this Key Industry Issue is KII 7 'Health and Safety' and updates on activities will follow periodically.

Please visit www.cementindustry.co.uk <<http://www.cementindustry.co.uk/>> for all the latest news and updates from the industry.

For comments or contributions, please contact Damian Testa, Head of Public Affairs, on telephone: 01276 608708 or email: dtesta@bca.org.uk
