

Aug. 4, 2006

National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association



Strategic planning, logistics, 2006 elections on the agenda at NSSGA-PMD Annual Meeting

Planning is well underway for PMD's 2006 Annual Meeting, which will take place at the Hyatt Regency Tech Center in Denver on Sept. 11 and 12. PMD's leadership team has put together an agenda covering a range of hot topics facing our industry, including:

- **Strategic planning.** Tom Turney of T2 Executive Leadership will discuss organizational strategic planning, with an eye both to helping PMD establish a plan for future success and to helping PMD members improve planning in their own organizations.
- **Managing rising transportation costs.** Mike Darragh, director of mined minerals for the CSX Corporation will discuss the state of the railroad industry, why costs are on the rise, and how PMD can work with the railroads at the federal level to help reduce both our industries' costs of doing business. Erik Bohn, director of logistics for OMYA, Inc. will explain how his company is meeting the challenge of rising transportation costs.
- **Workforce development.** Finding quality employees who know our industry is a challenge. We've invited Ron Brummett, the director of the Colorado School of Mines' Career Center to provide background about CSM, discuss trends in minerals industry employment, and explain how PMD members can work with his office to recruit new talent.
- **Recent developments in mine safety and environmental policy.** NSSGA, PMD's parent organization, is a leader in promoting regulatory policies that benefit our industry and helping our members achieve the highest standard of regulatory compliance. John Hayden, NSSGA's vice president for environmental services and Garry Walter, NSSGA's vice president for safety & health will update PMD members about recent environmental and safety policy developments.
- **2006 congressional elections.** The conventional wisdom in Washington, D.C. is that Democrats have a decent shot at picking up at least one house of Congress this November. What are the races to watch and what will the outcome of the elections mean for the business community? PMD's own Christian Klein, a veteran D.C. lobbyist gives his perspective.

"This is shaping up to be a great meeting," 2006 PMD Chairman Reed Sherar (Columbia River Carbonates) said. "The content looks great and I'm glad to see that there will be plenty of opportunities for intra-industry networking. I have no doubt that everyone will take something valuable away from our time together."

The Annual Meeting will kick off with a networking dinner the evening of Sept. 11 and run through mid-afternoon on Sept. 12. As part of the conference, PMD's Board of Directors will formally meet on Sept 12 to establish the association's agenda for the coming year.



Registration information and a full agenda for the PMD Annual Meeting are available at our Web site:
<http://www.nssga.org/calendar/PMD0906/>.

Don't wait to sign up: The cut off date for hotel reservations is Aug. 25.

NSSGA-PMD voices support for ACGIH proposal to withdraw CaCO₃ TLV

In the latest twist in the on-going saga involving the American Conference of Government Industrial Hygienists' (ACGIH) Threshold Limit Value (TLV) for CaCO₃, NSSGA-PMD has voiced support for an ACGIH proposal to withdraw its CaCO₃ documentation and TLV due to insufficient data.

The story began in late 2004, when ACGIH proposed a dramatic reduction in the CaCO₃ TLV. The basis for the change was a German study that experts said in reality reflected no adverse health effects from CaCO₃ and which had several flaws in its methodology. The ACGIH proposal caused immediate concern among PMD members because TLVs are frequently incorporated by reference by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and other government agencies. If adopted, the new ACGIH standard would have almost certainly imposed new and unnecessary costs on PMD members and their customers.

NSSGA-PMD undertook a campaign to stop the NIC. Last July, NSSGA-PMD, joined by the National Lime Association (NLA) and the Industrial Minerals Association-North America (IMA-NA), filed comments urging ACGIH to withdraw the proposal. PMD members also raised concerns about ACGIH's activities with lawmakers on Capitol Hill, which ultimately led to a hearing earlier this Spring before the House Workforce Protections Subcommittee.

Earlier this year, NSSGA-PMD's efforts on the ACGIH front bore fruit. Not only did ACGIH table the proposed TLV reduction, the organization went a step further and issued a new NIC that proposed to withdraw the existing CaCO₃ documentation and TLV in its entirety due to insufficient data. In July, NSSGA-PMD, IMA-NA, and NLA filed comments in support of that proposal.

More information about the status of the CaCO₃ TLV will be provided at next month's PMD Annual Meeting.