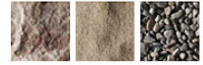


February 6, 2006

National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association



## ACGIH pulls back CaCO<sub>3</sub> TLV under pressure from PMD, allies

*"Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world, indeed it is the only thing that ever has."*

--Margaret Meade

In what appears to be a major victory for PMD, the American Conference of Government Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH) has announced that it is postponing action on its proposal to reduce exposure levels for pulverized calcium carbonate (CaCO<sub>3</sub>).

In late 2005, the ACGIH proposed a dramatic reduction in the Threshold Limit Value (TLV) (i.e., recommended exposure level) for CaCO<sub>3</sub>. The basis for the change was a recent German study that experts have said reflects no adverse health effects from CaCO<sub>3</sub> and which has several flaws in its methodology. ACGIH 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 by ACGIH, the standard would likely impose substantial and unnecessary costs on PMD members and their customers.

In July 2005, PMD, joined by the National Lime Association, and the International Minerals Association-North America, filed comments urging ACGIH to withdraw the proposal. PMD members also began raising the issue with lawmakers on Capitol Hill. In deciding to postpone action on the TLV, ACGIH has apparently taken the concerns expressed by PMD and its allies to heart and is seriously reconsidering how to proceed on the issue.

There is also evidence that ACGIH may be going a step further than just postponing its recent proposed change and may eliminate its recommended exposure levels CaCO<sub>3</sub> altogether. Word on the street is that ACGIH's Board of Directors has decided to issue a new Notice of Intended Change (NIC) for calcium carbonate for 2006 which would withdraw the existing TLV due to insufficient data. During the 2006 NIC cycle, ACGIH's TLV committee will therefore likely be soliciting comments about whether to keep, change, or modify the existing TLV and will then recommend a course of action to the ACGIH Board.

Needless to say, we'll have a lot to talk about on this issue when PMD meets in Tampa next month.

## PMD gears up for Spring Technical Meeting . . . Are you registered???

PMD's Spring Technical Meeting next month in Tampa is shaping up to be one of the best ever. The meeting is taking place on March 8 in conjunction with NSSGA's Annual Meeting.

Speakers confirmed for the PMD meeting include:

- Michael Hinrichsen of Caterpillar, Inc., who will discuss the implications of new equipment emission rules for equipment users;
- David Fowler, Ph.D., director of the International Center for Aggregates Research (ICAR) at the University of Texas, who will discuss the use of pulverized CaCO<sub>3</sub> as a filler in concrete; and



- Steven Fuller, Ph.D., an leading economist with George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, who will share insights about the likely health of the U.S. economy over the next year and what it means for PMD member companies.

The program will also feature presentations from NSSGA staff about environmental, regulatory, and government affairs issues.

A full agenda and registration information for the meeting is available online at <http://www.nssga.org/calendar/PMD0306>. If you have any questions, call PMD's Christian Klein at 703.739.9485.

The special PMD room rate expires on Feb. 15, so register now!