



Arizona Rock Products Association News Release

June 14, 2005

Rinker Materials and Arizona Portland Cement Create the Foundation for Understanding the Resource Industry



Participants of the 2005 MEC Conference gain a profound appreciation of the aggregates industry at Rinker Material's Cortero Plant

Tucson, Arizona – On Tuesday, June 14, natural resource education professionals from all around the U.S. converged on Tucson to participate in the Minerals in Education Conference (MEC) which was put on by groups such as Caterpillar and the Arizona Foundation for Resource Education (AFRE) that share a vision of continued education regarding natural resource extraction and processing industries. The purpose of the Conference was to share the latest projects, educational materials, knowledge and strategies available to convey the critical messages of this vital industry. Along with the educational breakout sessions and exhibits, participants were afforded the opportunity to visit various mining related properties to help gain a better understanding of the latest issues and trends in the industry.

The Arizona Rock Products Association (ARPA) along with Rinker Materials and Arizona Portland Cement Company (APC) assisted the conference by coordinating and hosting a learning experience designed to discover how aggregate products and cement are produced. The trip, which was one of several hosted this year by ARPA and AFRE, was an effort to help formal and informal educators to understand aggregate mining and processing.



Mark Kincade, Aggregate/Asphalt Cell Manager, of Rinker Materials gives MEC attendees a tour of their world class reclamation project.

The theme for this year's MEC Conference was sustainability and mining's supporting role. Experts in the industry such as Regional Manager Tori Robinson and Aggregate and Aggregate/Asphalt Cell Manager Mark Kincade of Rinker Materials drove home these ideas by sighting several community relations, environmental and safety projects the company is currently engaged in. Tori stated, "We do it, because it is the right thing to do."

Rinker's operation at Cortero Road, just west of the I-10 in Marana, afforded participants the opportunity to learn more about the extraction of aggregate materials, production of ready mix concrete and hot mixed asphalt, and post mined land use potential as folks toured a world class reclamation site that now serves as a public golf course.



Bill Phillips explains the chemistry involved in the production of cement.



John Bartolucci gives an overview of processes and intricacies of the operation.



The cement kiln at APC's Rillito Facility in Marana, AZ

John Bartolucci and Bill Phillips of APC were also instrumental in explaining the safety, environmental, economic, and processing involved in the cement industry. These great hosts explained everything from the mining and blending of limestone at the quarry 4 miles west of the cement facility to mixing, precalcination and operation control that yields the precious cement powder. Guests of the plant marveled at the high levels of education the various professions within the industry require as well as the advanced technology and sciences necessary to make it happen.



MEC participant photographs APC's limestone quarry where it all begins

In 2004, the aggregate industry significantly affected our state's economy. The aggregates industry employed 10,500 Arizona workers who provide essential materials for an additional 193,000 workers in the construction industry. The direct output of production and deliveries of the Arizona Rock Products Industry were \$2.2 billion dollars in the fiscal year. Those revenues are then disbursed back into the Arizona economy as expenditures for personnel, materials, supplies, equipment, fuel, utilities, leases, services and payments to governments. "These are numbers that have significant impact in defining the state's economy and responsible growth," states Steve Trussell of the Arizona Rock Products Association (ARPA), "It further validates the importance of the work these great people do in our state."

AFRE and ARPA provide teacher workshops on a variety of natural resource topics throughout the year. Visit their website at www.azresourceed.org or www.azrockproducts.org for more information on upcoming events.

For nearly 50 years, the Arizona Rock Products Association (ARPA) has been providing representation for over 55 member companies involved with the production of aggregates, asphaltic concrete, ready mix concrete, asphalt, lime products, and portland cement. Our members, along with over 85 associate members providing related transportation, contracting, and consulting services, make ARPA one of the most influential public and private policy advocates in Arizona today.