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Arizona Rock Products Association News Release

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Rinker and Vulcan Accept Emission Reduction Challenge

Phoenix, Arizona – On Tuesday, March 8th key industry representatives from Rinker and Vulcan Materials Companies volunteered, in an effort to reduce toxic emissions, to join the Maricopa County Department of Environmental Services (MCDES) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in a critical partnership between the community and government to address concerns about toxic chemical emissions and safety. “The time and effort the companies are dedicating to the partnership are considerable and do not necessarily contribute to an improvement in the company’s profitability, but rather provide a vehicle to show their commitment and desire to create a safe and secure working environment for their own employees and the community around them,” commented Kathlene Graf of MCDES.

EPA provided a grant to fund the South Phoenix Multimedia Toxics Reduction Project. The Industry Challenge/Good Neighbor (ICGN) Partnership is a smaller component of this larger project. The purpose of the ICGN Partnership is to characterize the south Phoenix area in terms of toxic emissions, identify potential hot spots, and then address these hot spots. The south Phoenix area was “targeted” because the area includes a large number of industrial sources in close proximity to residential dwellings.

In the early stage of the project, targeted industrial sources were identified and a list of priority toxic chemicals was developed. The EPA reached out to bring industry into the partnership. Industry partners played a key role in the design of the project and continue to participate on the three workgroups within the partnership. The three workgroups are Communications, Emission Reduction, and Accident Prevention. Industry and regulators have worked closely to create a plan to achieve the goals set forward by the stakeholder group.

Workshops have been held to address technical assistance needs and facilitate information exchange. On January 20, 2005, the first workshop for industry partners who were committed to emissions reduction was held. The focus was environmental management systems, writing an environmental policy, and identifying your environmental aspects and impacts. On February 22, a second workshop focused on chemical safety and was presented by a team of experts, including EPA, Risk Management Program Coordinators, and the Chemical Safety Board.

The Kickoff/Press Event was held on Tuesday, March 8th, to invite the local community, regulators, and local officials to participate in an industry expo and learn about the project and the achievements to date. The partnership has now entered the implementation phase. Partners, including Rinker Materials and Vulcan Materials Company, have signed a pledge to improve environmental performance and contribute to

the goal of reducing priority chemical emissions by 20% by the year 2007. The partnership provides a framework in which industry has an opportunity to work with regulators and environmental professionals and to share experience and expertise.

The intention of the project is to create a sustainable partnership that will continue to provide technical assistance through grant money and other funding sources. Continued community involvement and outreach is strongly desired and the partnership is working to develop a marketing/communication plan that will provide updates on the progress of the project. A website has been created for the partnership at: www.phoenixindustrychallenge.com and an article was published in the most recent issue of the AZ Environmental Management Journal.

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.