PROPOSED RULES FOR REGULATION OF COAL COMBUSTION RESIDUALS

On May 4, 2010, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lisa P. Jackson announced that the agency is proposing to regulate coal combustion residuals (CCR) under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). CCRs came to national attention in late 2008, when an impoundment holding disposed waste ash failed in Tennessee. The EPA’s proposed regulations would lead to stronger oversight of coal ash impoundments, along with measures to prevent environmental damage and contamination of drinking water.

The proposal calls for public comment on two approaches for addressing the risks of CCR management under the RCRA, the nation’s primary law for regulating solid waste. One option is drawn from enforcement powers available under Subtitle C of the RCRA, which creates a comprehensive program of federally enforceable requirements for waste management and disposal. The other option includes remedies under Subtitle D of the RCRA, which gives the EPA the authority to set performance standards for waste management facilities, and would be enforced primarily through citizen suits.

Under both approaches proposed by the EPA, the agency would leave in place the Bevill exemption for beneficial uses of CCRs, in which CCRs are recycled as components of products instead of placed in impoundments or landfills. “EPA supports the legitimate beneficial use of coal combustion residuals,” said Mathy Stanislaus, Assistant Administrator for the EPA’s Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, the agency office that will be responsible for implementing the proposals. “Environmentally sound beneficial uses of ash conserve resources, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, lessen the need for waste disposal units, and provide significant domestic economic benefits. This proposal will clearly differentiate these uses from coal ash disposal and assure that safe beneficial uses are not restricted and, in fact, are encouraged.”

The EPA is seeking public comment on how to frame the continued exemption of beneficial uses from regulation. The public comment period is 90 days from the date the rule is published in the Federal Register. The official publication date was unknown at the time this issue went to press, but information about the proposed regulation and submitting comments can be found at www.epa.gov/coalashrule.

ACI members can also view a related ACI Web Session, featuring presentations from the ACI Spring 2010 Convention 123 Forum: Fly Ash Contributes to Sustainable Concrete Construction session, at www.concrete.org/education/webcasts/webcasts.asp and viewing the “Past Web Sessions” page. In this ACI Web Session, the presenters discuss the impact of a hazardous waste designation on fly ash from the points of view of several segments of the concrete industry.

INTERNATIONAL AND RAP DOCUMENT EXAMS ADDED TO ACI ONLINE CEU PROGRAM

The ACI Online CEU Program has been expanded to include four new exams, including the first two exams to cover an international publication. As a result of the International Partner Agreement between ACI and RILEM (the International Union of Laboratories and Experts in Construction Materials, Systems, and Structures), two exams have been created to cover the content in RILEM Report 35, “Casting of Self Compacting Concrete.” The report covers the important aspects of producing self-compacting (also known as self-consolidating) concrete from handling of raw materials through finishing. The first exam covers Chapters 1 through 8, whereas the second exam covers Chapters 9 through 12.

The other two ACI Online CEU Program exams cover two new publications from ACI Committee E706, Repair Application Procedures. The first exam covers RAP-10, “Leveling and Reprofiling of Vertical and Overhead Surfaces,” and the second exam covers RAP-11, “Slabjacking.”

The ACI Online CEU Program can be accessed by clicking “Online CEU Program” under the “Education” dropdown menu at the top of the ACI Web page. ACI members can access exams worth eight professional development hours free of charge with their annual membership. Additional exams for members and exams for nonmembers are available for a fee of $25. The RILEM and RAP documents are available for free by clicking on the link to “Documents used with the ACI Online CEU Program” on the “Online CEU Program” Web page.

60 YEARS OF RESEARCH AT LCPC

The Laboratoire Central des Ponts et Chaussées (LCPC) marked its 60th anniversary of innovation in transportation infrastructure research with a celebration event at the Conservatoire National des Arts & Métiers (CNAM) Engineering Centre in Paris, France. Participants attended four panel discussions on November 30, 2009, devoted to LCPC’s new strategy, inspired by the recent Grenelle Environment Roundtable and focused on devising solutions to reduce the consumption of energy
necessary for building and maintaining civil engineering structures. The Vision of Sustainable Civil Engineering Symposium featured discussions on energy—“Defending the Viability of our Planet”; risks—“Designing a Well-Protected Residence”; mobility—“Building Modular Infrastructure”; and urban issues—“Laying Out a Quieter Environment.”

An interactive materials exhibition and a series of dynamic demonstrations, hosted by CNAM, were also presented to showcase LCPC’s areas of influence on the research of roads, engineering structures, geotechnical engineering and natural hazards, and urban engineering. Michele Pappalardo, French Commissioner-General for Sustainable Development, was the guest of honor during the symposium’s closing session and strolled among the various LCPC presentations on display.

At its inception, the Laboratory’s mission was focused on the tremendous need to rebuild Europe’s transportation infrastructure in the aftermath of World War II. It has since evolved over time to embrace new topics, centered on facilities maintenance, durability, resource conservation and, now, climate change. Visit www.lcpc.fr for more information.

**ENTRIES INVITED FOR PERI CONSTRUCTION EXERCISE 2010/2011**

PERI is organizing its eighth Construction Exercise, which is targeted to educational institutions that offer construction-related courses. This exercise covers many different aspects of the construction business. The competition is intended to deepen the knowledge of these areas using hands-on tasks, particularly in concrete estimating and formwork technology. The exercise involves finding formwork solutions for slabs and straight and round walls, as well as comparing slab and wall formwork systems.

In the seventh PERI Construction Exercise 2008/2009, 36 entries were received from Austria, Germany, Italy, Malaysia, and the U.S. The creators of the five best solutions were invited to the final round of judging at the PERI headquarters in Weissenhorn, Germany. After the finalists presented their reports to the awards jury, Maximilian Sedlmair from the University of Applied Sciences in Munich was chosen as the first place winner.

Participation in the eighth PERI Construction Exercise is open to all civil engineering training and educational institutions. The deadline for the competition is June 30, 2011. All necessary information and corresponding downloads are available on the PERI Web site, www.peri.de, in the “News” section. A complete set of documents for participation can be requested by e-mail to bbue@peri.de.

**WEB-BASED IMCP TRAINING AVAILABLE**

The National Highway Institute (NHI) is offering free online training modules based on the Integrated Materials and Construction Practices (IMCP) Manual developed by the National CP Tech Center. The following modules are available at no cost through the NHI Web site:

- FHWA-NHI-134101, TCCC Design of Concrete Pavements;
- FHWA-NHI-134084, TCCC Fundamentals of Materials Used for Concrete Pavements;
- FHWA-NHI-134097, TCCC Fresh Concrete Properties;
- FHWA-NHI-134096, TCCC Basics of Cement Hydration;

**PUBLICATIONS FOR DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION PROFESSIONALS**

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**The “Must Have” Design Resource**

The CRSI Design Handbook has been the reference book for cast-in-place reinforced concrete design since 1952. The 10th edition provides the necessary information needed for common reinforced concrete structural members such as columns, beams, footings, pile caps, retaining walls, and floor systems.

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CRSI’s unique and popular Placing Reinforcing Bars presents the best accepted current field practices in placing reinforcing bars. It is written for apprentices, journeyman ironworkers and inspectors. Definitive resource for preparing projects in project specifications.

**Your Complete Source**

Reinforcing Bars: Anchorages and Splices contains complete information on development and splicing of reinforcing bars.

**WEB-BASED TRAINING AVAILABLE**

The Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute is an established, professional trade association representing every aspect of the reinforcing steel industry. From technical publications and design aids to educational seminars and membership functions, CRSI offers a complete network of industry information and support for all its members.

Visit www.crsi.org for our entire selection of popular publications, technical resources and for more information on membership in CRSI.

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- FHWA-NHI-134085, TCCC Incompatibility in Concrete Pavement Systems;
- FHWA-NHI-134095, TCCC Early Age Cracking;
- FHWA-NHI-134075, TCCC Hardened Concrete Properties—Durability;
- FHWA-NHI-134087, TCCC Mix Design Principles;
- FHWA-NHI-134098, TCCC Construction of Concrete Pavements; and
- FHWA-NHI-134100, TCCC QC/QA for Concrete Pavements.


**DEADLINE APPROACHING FOR TCA AWARDS**

Industry professionals are encouraged to submit projects for the annual Achievement Awards competition of the Tilt-Up Concrete Association (TCA). To qualify for consideration, projects must be submitted by a member of the team that maintains a current TCA membership.

The entry deadline for the 2011 TCA Tilt-Up Achievement Awards program is June 30, 2010. For information on the criteria, categories, and rules for submission, go to [www.tilt-up.org/awards/tilt/submit.php](http://www.tilt-up.org/awards/tilt/submit.php).

The awards ceremony for the 2010 winners will be held during the annual TCA Convention, September 29-October 1, 2010, in Irvine, CA.

**NEW WEB SITE FOR CEMBUREAU**

CEMBUREAU, the European Cement Association based in Brussels, Belgium, has launched a new, more user-friendly Web site. The Web site features CEMBUREAU resources as well as the Association’s opinion on a number of key topics, including alternative fuels and raw materials, climate change, and sustainable construction. In addition, an online database of biodiversity case studies is available. Tour the new site at [www.cembureau.eu](http://www.cembureau.eu) to learn more about the work of CEMBUREAU.

**JSI MEETING IN WASHINGTON, DC**

The members of the Concrete Joint Sustainability Initiative met at the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS), Washington, DC, in late February 2010. NIBS President Henry L. Green addressed the group and provided an overview of NIBS programs to better familiarize the attendees with the Institute’s activities. Discussions focused on areas of possible collaboration, such as the reconstruction efforts after the Haiti earthquake.