



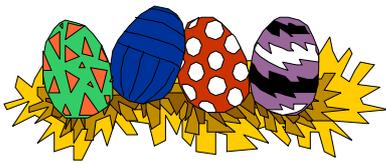
THE SOUTH AFRICAN COAL ASH ASSOCIATION (SACAA)

No 32, April 2011

ASH @ WORK

COMMUNIQUE OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN COAL ASH ASSOCIATION

from your Editors and President of the SACAA



Editorial

This is the second issue of **ASH@WORK** in 2011. Members also received additional communications by means of two **ASH FLASHES** (14 March and 4 April 2011).

In this issue there is feedback on the last Council Meeting and on the Technical Meeting, of 6 April 2011. There is also a progress report on NEMWA.

The new column: **Corporate Corner** in this issue is rather thin since individuals and corporate members unfortunately have not fed us with developments at their organisations. We look for anything newsworthy that may be of interest to the local ash fraternity.

The section on **Forthcoming Events** has been updated, including the dates for SACAA's meetings for the full year.

Lastly we can report SACAA's President, Dr Richard Kruger will, later this month, be on the move on a fact-finding mission. He will attend the World of Coal Ash (WOCA) conference in

Denver, USA and afterwards the meeting of ECOBA in Belgrade, Serbia..

Council Matters

The 98th Council meeting was held at SAICE, Midrand on 6 April 2011.

A lot of discussion centred on the National Environmental Management Waste Act (NEMWA) and the way forward. The threat that ash be declared a hazardous waste has still not been averted.

The meeting also agreed that SACAA should consider ways of drawing attention to the beneficial effect on the CARBON FOOTPRINT and CLIMATE CHANGE that ensues when ash is used in cementitious applications.

The next Council meeting is set for 8 June 2011 and SACAA's members are urged to submit their ideas and proposals, for the enhancement of activities, to the Administrator.

SACAA Technical Meeting, 6 April 2011

SACAA President, Dr Richard Kruger, Richonne Consulting, gave an illustrated presentation on: *Coal Ash: Is it a Waste, a Product or a Secondary Material ?*

As a result of environmental concerns coal ash is being subjected to intense scrutiny and a wide array of legislative regulations throughout the world.

The Waste Framework Directive in Europe; the Resources Conservation Recovery Act in the USA and the National Environmental Management Waste Act (NEMWA) in South Africa all have the same broad objective: to ensure that the environmental impact of coal ash is minimised.

Key aspects common to this legislation are:

- the status of coal ash as a material (waste, product, etc);
- its chemical and physical properties (potential effect on the environment).

During the talk Richard discussed regulatory frameworks with particular attention to the situation in Europe. He compared how Europe and the UK achieved end-of-waste status for coal ash while in the USA the concern has focussed on whether coal ash is hazardous or not. The situation in South Africa is in a state of flux with various options still possible.

Richard's concluding slide sums up the current situation:

Summary and Conclusion

The legal status of coal ash in Europe, UK, USA, and South Africa is in a state of flux.

There is no definitive answer whether fly ash is a waste, a product or a secondary material.

- In **Europe** it is a product but is faced with the spectre of REACH
- In the **UK** it has achieved end-of-waste status
- In the **USA** the hazard/benign debate rages on
- In **South Africa**:
Legally a "waste" / Practically a "product"

The presentation was followed by the usual networking over refreshments.

Afrisam was thanked for the sponsorship of this meeting.

Corporate Corner

SACAA member, Paul Botha of AFRI SAM, who has shown a strong involvement into coming to grips with the local environmental legislation and the status of ash, will be transferring to the company's head office in Switzerland, later this year. SACAA wishes him an interesting future in his new job

NEMWA

The SACAA has been cooperating with the Association of Cementitious Manufacturers and Producers (ACMP) to rescind the waste status of ash used in cementitious applications.

On 2 April 2011 the ACMP submitted an application to the Department of Environment for coal ash to be classified as a by-product, failing which it be given End-of-Waste status.

Should either of these be approved coal ash will then be subject to other legislation or regulations within NEMWA that ensures its use in a responsible manner without any negative effect on the environment or human health.

Members will be kept informed on the progress.

International News on the Fly Ash Scene

In Namibia the Development Bank of South Africa buys stake in cement plant

The Development Bank of Southern Africa Ltd, a state-owned lender, will acquire a 7.3 percent stake in Schwenk Zement KG's Ohorongo Cement unit in Namibia,

"We expect to sign the agreement with the Bank this week," Ohorongo General Manager Hans-Willem Schuette told reporters at the plant's site in Otavi, northern Namibia, declining to say how much the lender will pay for the stake. It will first be "warehoused" by the bank and may later be sold to Namibian pension funds, he said.

Ohorongo, which cost 2.5 billion Namibian dollars (\$349.4 million) to build, is expected to reach full output next year and will meet Namibia's annual cement consumption of 380,000 tons this year. The European Investment Bank was among lenders that provided funding for construction, while working capital is being provided by Namibian banks, he said, declining to name them.

Namibia, the world's biggest miner of offshore diamonds and fourth largest uranium producer, also plans to spend 3 billion Namibian dollars over the next three years increasing capacity at the Walvis Bay port which, along with construction of uranium mines will provide the initial markets for Ohorongo, Schuette said.

Schwenk Zement, which is based in Ulm, Germany, owns 60 percent of the plant and has an annual production capacity of 700,000 metric tons.

[Source: Bloomberg, Chamwe Kaira, 3 February 2011]

In the USA Rep. Bob Latta Introduces Coal Ash Bill

(State Column 4-7-2011) Congressman Bob Latta (R-Bowling Green) introduced today a bill that would block the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from classifying coal ash as a “hazardous waste” under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. The current EPA proposal contradicts past findings, where it determined that coal ash does not warrant regulation as a hazardous waste and any designation would lead to \$16.7 billion in increased costs per year.

“Overstating the harm of coal ash and designating it as a hazardous waste will damage our economy by raising costs for both families and companies, already struggling with rapidly ballooning energy costs,” said Congressman Latta.

Approximately 45 percent of the Coal Ash generated is recycled, used as an additive in cement, concrete, wallboard, and roofing materials, road based fills materials and snow and ice control. A move to regulate coal ash as a hazardous waste would stifle the beneficial uses of recycled coal and would force more ash to landfills.

“The increased cost of unneeded regulation would lead to an 18 percent decline in coal generated power; resulting in higher unemployment and energy costs, all the while further increasing our dependency on foreign countries for energy. In this economy, we cannot afford to lose any more jobs in Ohio or the United States. We need to get Washington out of the way of economic growth by tearing down barriers to energy independence and job creation,” stated Congressman

[SOURCE: Smartash Info]

In the EU

The European Commission has unveiled plans to ban petrol-powered cars from European cities starting in 2050, under a Masterplan to cut CO₂ emissions. The plan for a “Single European Transport Area”, includes proposals to phase out “conventionally fuelled” cars from urban areas. The EC foresees halving the use of such vehicles in city centres by 2030, and banning them completely by 2050.

[Press Release: European Commission]

Local News

KUSILE

The Export-Import (Ex-Im) Bank of the USA on Friday voted to grant preliminary approval for a \$805,6-million direct loan to State-owned power utility, Eskom, for the construction of the Kusile power plant in Mpumalanga, with final approval expected within 35 days.

The Bank reported that the application to finance the Kusile project underwent a review that focused on aspects related to its carbon dioxide emissions, and South Africa's long-term goals to reduce its carbon dioxide emissions.

“Eskom, as a State-owned energy enterprise, has announced its goal to significantly reduce its long-term dependence on coal by 2025” said Ex-Im Bank in a statement.

In fiscal year 2010, which ended September 2010, the bank authorised a record \$812-million to support exports to sub-Saharan Africa. The bank expected that financial year 2011 authorisations for the region may ultimately exceed \$1,5-billion.

South Africa was one of nine countries identified by Ex-Im Bank as offering the greatest export sales opportunities to US companies. The Kusile plant would consist of six 800 MW units, for a total capacity of 4 800 MW. It is the second of two plants, the other being Medupi, constructed by Eskom to meet the country's increasing demand for electricity.

ESKOM

Eskom's General Manager: Integrated Demand Management reported that 43.5 million compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) were rolled out, without cost to customers, between 2004 and 2010, resulting in a saving of 1 800 MW of electricity.

[Press Release: Eskom].

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

9-12 MAY 2011:

World of Coal Ash (WOCA) International Conference 2011

Denver, Colorado/USA

Organised by the American Coal Ash Association (ACAA)

Details: www.worldofcoalash.org

8 JUNE 2011:

SACAA Technical Meeting, at SAICE, Midrand, 15:00 (Topic still to be advised)

14-15 JUNE 2011:

Workshop: Performance-based Specifications for Concrete to be held in Leipzig/Germany

Details are available from: Dr-Ing Hans Beushausen

Editor CPI worldwide & Senior Lecturer, University of Cape Town, Department of Civil Engineering

Private Bag, Rondebosch 7701, South Africa

Phone: +27 (0)21 6505181

Fax: +27 (0)21 6897471

Hans.Beushausen@uct.ac.za

www.csirg.uct.ac.za

www.iccrrr.uct.ac.za

24 AUGUST 2011:

SACAA AGM, at SAICE, Midrand, 15:00

19 OCTOBER 2011:

SACAA Technical Meeting, at SAICE, Midrand, 15:00

16 NOVEMBER 2011:

SACAA Technical Meeting, at SAICE, Midrand, 15:00

YOUR SACAA COUNCIL

Elected Members:

Richard Kruger (President)
 Wayne Truter, UP (Vice President)
 Dieter Heinichen (Treasurer/Administrator)
 William Burtone, PPC
 Karen Surr ridge-Talbot, UP
 Sabine Verryn, XRD Analytical and Consulting

C&CI:

Gary Theodosiou

CSIR:

Joe Mafiravana
 [Santie Gouws]

Eskom:

Deidre Herbst

Lafarge SA:

Lebogang Mandiwana

PPC:

Eduardo Auger
 [Walter Wirth]

Sephaku Ash:

Hennie van Heerden

Ulula Ash:

Belinda Heichler
 [Mark Hovy]

Corporate representatives

[& alternates]:

Afrisam:

Mike McDonald
 [Amit Dawneerangen]
 [Eunice Mguqulwa]

Ash Resources:

Matthew Reynolds
 [Andrew McKeen]

The editorial team would welcome any information for publication in forthcoming **Ash@Work** newsletters.

Please contact Dieter Heinichen at:

Telephone: 012 991 5839 or 082 575 2610
 Fax: 086 515 0692
 e-mail: hafrika@absamail.co.za

or write to:

SACAA, PO Box 50172, Moreleta Village, 0097

Disclaimer: *The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Council of the South African Coal Ash Association*