



Contact:
Jim Wolsiefer
Silica Fume Association
Phone: (631) 724-8639
E-Mail: jim@silicafume.org

Media Release

June 14th, 2004

Silica Fume added to the Environmental Protection Agency's Recovered Materials Listing

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) amended Part 247 Comprehensive Procurement Guideline (CPG) for Products Containing Recovered Materials to include "concrete containing silica fume". This CPG ruling, entered into the Federal Register on April 30th, implements the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) that requires the EPA to designate items that are or can be made with recovered materials. Once the EPA designates a product any procuring agency that uses appropriated Federal funds to procure that item must purchase the item containing the highest percentage of recovered materials practicable.

As identified in the CPG silica fume, a byproduct from silicon and ferrosilicon metal production for use in concrete products, has been added to *Part 247.12 Construction Products*. "We fully expect that this ruling will encourage agencies, which have not already done so, to include silica fume in their specifications for high-strength and/or high-performance concrete", stated Mark Benedict, President of the Silica Fume Association. "Many State DOTs have already recognized that the use of silica fume will reduce the life-cycle cost of any concrete structure and dramatically increase its service

life,” said Terence C. Holland, SFA executive director. The taxpayer benefit in using silica-fume concrete has been estimated at hundreds of millions of dollars annually.

Silica-fume concrete can withstand corrosion factors such as harsh weather and deicing chemicals and has been used throughout the U.S. for more than 20 years. Infrastructure benefits include increased durability, extended concrete life, reduced corrosion of reinforcing steel and increased strength for longer bridge girders. The use of silica fume in concrete paving will provide additional strength, abrasion resistance, and durability.

The Silica Fume Association was formed in 1998 to promote the benefits of silica-fume concrete and increase its usage in the United States. Based in Lovettsville, VA the association is comprised of manufacturers of silica fume and has a cooperative agreement with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) designed to educate state transportation agencies and industry professionals on the benefits of silica-fume concrete as well as expand the use of the high-performance concrete in state highway and bridge projects. For more information about SFA, call (540) 882-4001, or visit www.silicafume.org.

##