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WEATHER

Atlanta, GA
Scattered Clouds
71° F / 22° C
Winds SSE at 5 mph
Pressure 30.04 in
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PUBLICATIONS

- California Builder & Engineer
- Construction
- Construction Bulletin
- Construction Digest
- Construction News
- Constructioneer
- Dixie Contractor
- Green Sheet
- Green Sheet Logger
- Michigan Contractor & Builder
- Midwest Contractor
- New England Construction
- Pacific Builder & Engineer
- Rocky Mountain Construction
- Texas Contractor
- Western Builder

PRODUCTS

- Buyers' Guide
- Construction Forecast
- Buyers' Purchasing Intentions
- Trucking for Construction
- Material Producer Quarterly
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Editor's Report

*By Mike Larson
June 18, 2007
Western Builder*

Web Seminar Explains Sales And Use Taxes

On Thursday, June 28, AGC of Wisconsin is offering a web seminar about sales and use taxes as applied to the construction industry — a topic that affects everyone in the business.

This seminar will feature two Wisconsin Department of Revenue experts bringing their expertise to bear on hot topics and frequently asked questions, such as: What happens during an audit; service vs. rental costs; and exemption certificates. The experts will also answer any questions asked by participants during the seminar.

The seminar is available to members and non-members, and there is a nominal fee. Companies need only register once, and any number of employees may hook up under the single registration. An electronic registration flyer and details are available from the AGC of Wisconsin. Visit www.agcwi.org or call (608) 221-3821.

The deadline for registering is June 23.

I've participated in web seminars, and found them a great educational tool. All you need is a computer, telephone and a little time. I like being able to participate conveniently right from my desk. The phone provides audio information and the visuals appear on my monitor. It's all interactive, so I can ask questions and hear others' questions and answers, too.

Although web seminars are not the answer for all the industry's educational needs, they are a powerful tool we can use to convey valuable information easily and effectively.

California Proposal Would Stiffen Emission Standards For Existing Off-road Equipment

Seeking to change the rules for off-road diesel equipment that is already working in the construction industry, the California Air Resource Board (CARB) has proposed requiring existing fleets of equipment to reduce engine emissions. To meet the proposed new standards, equipment owners would have to retrofit or replace existing equipment — an effort estimated to cost \$13 billion and to take more than 13 years, just in California.

After more than a year of studying the CARB proposal, the Associated General

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Contractors of America (AGC) submitted 16 pages of initial comments to CARB before the agency held its first hearing on the latest draft of the proposal.

The AGC comments emphasized that the CARB proposal would sharply cut the value of equipment fleets — wiping out the net worth of many construction companies, depriving them of their bonding capacity, and simultaneously requiring them to make massive capital investments.

CARB's new rule would render thousands of pieces of construction equipment worthless unless they are fitted with emission controls (which may not even be available) until they are outfitted with new engines. The proposal could force contractors to retire equipment long before its usefulness ends.

Beyond the financial burden CARB's proposal would impose, AGC also identified technological barriers to meeting the standards and noted that it feels CARB has failed to consider reasonable, less costly alternatives.

Because other states could adopt any new standards set by California, this issue is actually a national matter that could eventually affect contractors all across the country.

Information about the proposal is available at www.agc.org or from the Construction Industry Air Quality Coalition (CIAQC) at www.ciaqc.com.

TCA And ACI Formalize Cooperation

A recently reached understanding between the Tilt-Up Concrete Association (TCA) and the American Concrete Institute (ACI) will minimize duplication of activities and foster cooperation in technical committees, educational seminars, publications, certification, and other related activities.

The TCA will primarily represent the tilt-up industry in development of reliable technical information and guidelines for field procedures, applications, practices, and maintenance.

The ACI will be responsible for developing concrete codes, as well as standards and guidelines for concrete materials, design and repair.

Said Ed Sauter, executive director of the TCA, "Both associations will work in a cooperative environment to advance the industry and ensure our respective memberships have all the materials and data they need to grow their businesses. We have enjoyed a great relationship with ACI for years, and this agreement formalizes the direction each association will pursue."

As part of the agreement, an ACI representative will sit on the TCA board of directors. ACI's Douglas Sordyl, P.E., LEED AP will fill this post.

"We are excited to have Doug as a member of the TCA board of directors," said Sauter. "His involvement will further strengthen the relationship between TCA and ACI, and we believe his input will add value to our organization."

Sordyl is managing director of the American Concrete Institute (ACI) Industry Affairs and is also managing director of the Strategic Development Council. Prior to joining ACI in 2004, Sordyl spent 30 years as a structural engineer and project manager in a multi-disciplined architectural/engineering consulting firm. He has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering, a master's degree in engineering from the University of Detroit, is a registered professional engineer in Michigan and California, and is a LEED-accredited professional.

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