

**Joint Committee on Dimensional Stone
Draft Meeting Summary
Teleconference
June 20, 2011**

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Meeting Attendees			
Company	Name	Interest Category	Role
Walker and Zanger, Inc	Bob Buswell	Distributor	Member
NSF International	Mindy Costello	Other	Secretariat
NSF International	Amber Dzikowicz	General Interest	Observer
Charles Luck Stone Center	Bill Eubank	Distributor	Member
NSF International	Kianda Franklin	User	Member
Univerity of Tennessee	Jack Geibig	User	Member
Fabra Cleen	Brian Kornet	User	Member
Bridgewater Marble and Granite	Porter Little	Distributor	Member
Marazita and Associates	Vince Marazita	User	Member
Stony Creek Quarry Corporation	Darrell Petit	Academia / NGO	Member
Quantis	Amanda Pike	User	Member
Artistic Tile	Rakotz, Stephanie		Guest
Indiana Limestone Company	Brett Skilbred	Industry	Member
NSF International	Jessica Slomka		Observer

Mindy Costello read attendance and the antitrust statement. Mindy went through the purpose of the smaller groups to draft language.

Quarry Operations:

Reclamation

Amanda went through the quarry section's progress. They met today and talked about the reclamation and waste and energy. She found a commonality in that there could be levels of conformance where some are easier and other are for future continuous improvement. There may be some companies that already achieve the first level and the second level would be for those that can be achieved in the future. The quarry group discussed keeping the reclamation criteria flexible. There is some local legislation about having a reclamation plan in place to meet regulations. A more comprehensive approach of criteria should be set as a baseline for the reclamation plan. This would not be contrary to any legislation.

Energy

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The second topic was around energy use in the quarry. There was a suggestion to use Energy Star program or other programs that exist. They will be looked at for this section as a base level. There was a question in general about topics that overlap for both the quarry and processing. Amanda asked if these ad hoc groups could work together. Todd added that he was looking at for processing was operations. If you are looking at the mill operations and all the equipment it is all about the energy consumption. The energy consumption can be greater if the corporate structure is larger too. The question was how to take into account the energy consumption in the office/corporate area. The standard is taking shape for a quarry and processor and could be both. There may be some that have central operations that encompass both the quarry and processing for their energy consumption. This was an issue of allocation of energy. The criterion for energy was written on a corporate and facility basis both.

Mindy added that the reclamation plan have a minimum set of criteria as a prerequisite and an additional recognition for more expansive plan.

Jack proposed that each group should consider their ideas for their section and then combine and discuss at the July meeting.

Social Responsibility

Kianda went through the SR section that would apply for both quarry and processing. The Processing group discussed the injury rate and how it applies to OSHA reporting. Todd commented on the topic of OSHA and safety: there should be a presumption that all quarries and processors have a high standard for safety. He had some concern with reporting injury rates beyond OSHA and that many will not support that. Jack responded that there are usually elements of safety in a standard. The beginning of the standard states that anyone claiming conformance shall meet legislation. The standard does not intend to be in conflict with legislation. The point of this credit was to promote transparency and improvement for safety and injury rates. This was part of the OSHA requirements already. Todd proposed this to be more of an innovation narrative area for what is being done to improve their safety. Jack agreed that if this is optional credit for a point standard. This is beyond the OSHA requirement to disclose safety issues to their insurance underwriter. Todd did not think this was a good credit to include because of the disclosure of incidents that occur infrequently to tarnish a good safety record. Todd implied that only companies that have perfect safety records will apply for this credit.

Darrell said that dimensional quarries are all different geological formations and hence employ different quarry processes to quarry the formation; crotch island's formation is different than stony creek's formation is different than barre's formation. In this fundamental way the natural condition of the quarry is vastly different than the fabricated condition of the processing plant. Darrell said that MSHA seemed to be successful in applying their guidelines while being relatively understanding of the different and specific dimensional quarry processes. He did not agree with Todd's opinion on the reporting of safety incidents. Safety incidents should be reported as is customary under MSHA rules and regulations. He did agree with Todd's opinion that to apply additional guidelines above and beyond what is already existing. Darrell continued that in order to compete in today's global economy quarry operations are

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often taking on more out of the ordinary and challenging projects that may also challenge the quarry process in new (or sometimes traditional) ways to achieve the final results being requested. And so as a result there are innovative ways that quarries have to respond to improving their process and changes in regulation for safety. The natural condition of the quarry situation is fundamentally different than a processing plant.

There was support to the community outreach as it is part of the reclamation plans that are required. The effectiveness will depend on the implementation of the credit. Jack said it will need to be specific in how it is measured. The social aspect is crucial to raising the bar for international suppliers and quarry operations.

Processing:

Water Use, Quality and Discharge

Porter reported they have framed this for processing. They felt that recycling of water should be a prerequisite for the standard. The group felt that the recycling of water should be 100% but considered that in some equipment may not allow that. He said the technology is there to have this closed loop system. It may be necessary to calculate the rate of recycle. The group looked at the particulates and fines and passed those to the reclamation and waste group. Chemical use in treating water- some processors may use this. Porter asked about if this is common. Amanda asked if the group talked about water sources such as rainwater collection or other reuse type water. Other reuse water can be included in relation to the site of the facility such as irrigation or toilet flushing onsite. Quarriers do reuse of rainwater as well. This criterion could be for both sections. Porter asked if the avenue for a prerequisite of recycle water. Amanda thought this was regional dependent as well as the amount of water being used. The point of efficiency within the process itself should be considered.

Transportation

Stephanie provided the background on the SmartWay program. It addresses the air, land and water. The program addresses truck stops and rail carriers. Each model deals with the carbon footprint and emissions. The point is to partner with those participating in the program for shippers. The model is developed and is self monitored. For international imports from EU or Asia, does the program start from the port? It is from the port; EPA is not involved in the transportation prior to the port. If this is inland within the continental US, it can be used for those transports. Jessica commented the ad hoc group had not gotten to the point of how it would be allocated or written.

Energy

Todd reiterated that the Energy Star would be the basis for this section; the group would refer to that program as to avoid reinventing the standard that already exists.

Waste

Bob Buswell reported the group has some basic ideas that will have minimum criteria and optional criteria beyond those basic issues.

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Chemical Use

Kathy and Amanda are working on this section.

Human Health and Safety

This group needs to meet and discuss the details to begin their work.

Conformance levels

Mindy presented the approach for the group to consider. Jack agreed that there should be a set of core criteria and optional criteria. The weighting of the points will occur once the credit language is developed. With a tiered approach for the credits and the achievement levels were agreeable to most. Platinum would be a stretch goal to the quarry operations and processing. Vince had concern with the quarry that is great but the processor is not could be issue. There was a question of having a set of criteria that apply to your operations as opposed to what is not applicable. This will need to be a fair assessment of their achievements (applicable credits will need to be reviewed). Jack commented the stone would have a tracking system of the processing and quarry to have a final label to market. The tracking is for the steps for which the stone went through before sale. There was good discussion about the labeling of the stone versus certifying the processor and quarry operations. This will be discussed again in more detail at the next meeting.

Call to action:

The smaller groups are charged with development of language for the Joint Committee to review at the next meeting. Jack and Mindy are both available to support the ad hoc groups in writing their draft sections. The agenda for the next meeting will be to discuss criteria for quarry and processing as developed by the ad hoc smaller groups.

The next meeting is July 25th.