ANSI Dimensional Stone Standard

NSC Progress Report - May 2013

The following is an update of the current status of the NSC-funded development of a Sustainability Standard for dimensional Stone. This update includes a brief overview of the current status of Task 1, Development of a sustainability standard for dimensional stone, along with a projected schedule of events. A discussion of remaining proposed tasks is presented at the end of this update.

Task 1 – Development of a Dimensional Stone Standard

Task 1 of the work by Ecoform is the development of a sustainability standard for dimensional stone. Revision 2 of the NSC 373 standard is now complete, with all comments having been considered and responded to in writing. Revision 2 of the standard has been posted on the NSF project website in markup form to facilitate easy review. There were a number of significant changes to the standard as a result of the many comments that were received...almost too many to list.

To name a few:

- Scope of standard expanded to include all facilities that process stone (not just primary processing), and all types of dimensional stone (with a few exceptions)
- Addition of a bronze tier (all required criteria), and the raising of the points required to reach different tiers.
- Rebalancing of point totals for different sections and criteria
- Credit for past performance
- Extension of time periods for which credit can be claimed for things like environmental impact assessments
- Changing the basis for energy improvement from total energy to energy per unit produced.
- Process scrap is now tracked separately from solid waste, with improvements in either rewarded for credit.
- Transportation must now be tracked for any shipments arranged by the facility, in either direction.
- Progress towards site closure/reclamation according to plan is now sufficient for demonstrating responsible closure practice (in lieu of requiring complete closure to earn credit).
- Awarding credit for on-site water treatment resulting in no direct discharge
- Site maps now required in site management plan
- Elimination of multi-year reporting benchmarks in favor of 5 year goal setting and tracking.
- Chemical management restructured by end point, rather than by top tier secondary chemicals
- Many other changes

As the list demonstrates, changes affected nearly every section of the standard. All told, I believe the many comments have made the standard much better and expanded the scope to a broader segment of the industry, while maintaining the strength and integrity of the standard, a notable achievement.

We have already begun the process of beginning a second round of review. Notification was sent to ANSI last week. The schedule going forward is as follows (these dates are locked):

- **Friday May 17th** - 1) Revision 2 of NSC 373 is released for a 45-day review period. Because the standard underwent heavy revision, it is our intention to allow comments on the entire standard. 2) Balloting for

Revision 2 of NSC 373 is opened for 2-week period. Balloting will be open until June 7th. Note: We are holding this earlier in the process in an attempt to prevent a third round of balloting, by allowing us to identify and address proactively any major concerns that arise during review

- **June 7th** – Official ballot closes on revision. If the ballot passes, and there are NO substantive comments received during the public comment period, the standard will be approved. Far more likely, substantive comments received during the public comment period will be shared with members of the committee, and they will have an opportunity to modify their votes as a result, before standard is approved.

- **July 2nd** – Public comment period closes. If the comments we receive at this point are considered non-substantive in nature, we can close the balloting, make final revisions, and finalize the standard without further balloting. If substantive comments are made, we do this all again. FYI, substantive comments are defined as comments that when resolved would require changes to the standard that modify its intent substantially, or that results in more than 5 pages of changes.

The above schedule essentially repeats the process we just went through. The purpose of the early ballot is to ID early enough if there remain any issues that need be addressed that will prevent passage so we can address them prior to a final balloting of this version. If there are not, then we will hold a final ballot after the comment period ends, address any non-substantive comments, and publish the document, which takes about 6 weeks. If we get substantive comments, we will need to revise, adjudicate, and re-ballot again. I was so thorough in talking with everyone during this last round, I am really hoping a third round will not be necessary.

Chain of Custody Standard – NSC 373

The need for a companion document to address the portions of the supply chain outside the scope of the Dimensional Stone standard became apparent during the development of NSC 373. Stakeholders will begin to develop criteria for a Chain of Custody standard as a companion to NSC 373. The COC will establish criteria for ensuring that adequate documentation and tracking systems exist in the supply chain of sustainably produced stone, to allow a customer to confirm its custody back to its origin.

The first several dates for this process have been set, and announcement notice has been circulated. Scheduled dates include the following:

- **Thurs, May 23rd** – 1 – 2:30 PM Eastern
- **Thurs, May 30th** – 1 – 2:30 PM Eastern
- **Thurs, June 13th** – 1 – 2:30 PM Eastern

These dates/times are tentative and may be modified based on the availability of participants. The process is open to anyone wishing to participate. Please note: that given that the scope of the standard is much more defined, that we will be modeling our standard after the successful FSC COC standard, and that it is being developed outside the sometimes cumbersome ANSI process, the development of this standard is expected to be much more efficient. This process is expected to take 4 to 6 months to develop, approve, and publish the standard.