

Indiana Mineral Industry News

First Quarter 1999

By Kathryn R. Shaffer
Indiana Geological Survey

Company news

Material Service Corp. of Chicago, IL, completed a deal in March to acquire Ward Stone, Inc., operations near Francesville in Pulaski County, and Rensselaer in Jasper County.

Rogers Group opened a new \$6 million cement block plant in Martinsville in February.

Martin Marietta applied for rezoning of 86 acres in Marion County to allow expansion of their Kentucky Avenue operation.

Lone Star cement plant in Greencastle, Putnam County, will start a new production line and the plant will convert to a semidry process. The plant will undergo a \$75 million expansion, to be completed by mid 2000, increasing capacity from 600,000 tons to 1.35 million tons. A preheater tower will also be added.

A new roofing shingles plant employing 120 individuals will open in Michigan City. The state is giving \$1.26 million in incentives for the \$25 million business to be operated by GAF Materials Corp.

On January 19, Hanson Cornerstone Construction & Materials and all other U.S. Hanson-owned aggregate companies changed their names to Hanson Building Materials America.

Construction industry developments

Results of a study conducted by the Illinois-Chicago College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs and commissioned by opponents to the proposed I-69 extension between Bloomington and Evansville were released. The report concludes that the cost of highway construction would far exceed the benefits from new jobs created in the affected four counties. Jobs created in the cities of Bloomington and Evansville were excluded from the report. The Indiana Department of Transportation disagreed with the findings stating, among other things, that the agency is looking at an affected area of 18 counties, not only the four studied in the report.

Designwork for improvements to 22 miles of U.S. 231 continued. AK Steel and American Electric Power urged the Indiana Department of Transportation to begin buying land and to start construction in the area of these plants. A new intercity highway is planned to connect Clarksville and Jeffersonville.

Indiana's governor, Frank O'Bannon, unveiled revised plans for the new \$65 million Indiana State Museum in January. The museum will be constructed of materials produced in Indiana including limestone, steel, brick, extruded aluminum, dimension sandstone, and glass. The museum exhibits will include a three-story working limestone quarry and the name will be changed to the Indiana Museum.

Legislative developments

Legislation was passed by the State Senate (SB-392) and referred to the House Committee on Environmental Affairs that would define the meaning of the term "karst".

An increase in gas-tax revenue will result in more money for Indiana's highways in 1999. The increase should amount to approximately \$33 million. Nationally, it appears that \$1.5 billion more will be available for transportation projects from gas-tax revenues than originally projected. There is some debate in Washington over this additional funding and how it should be spent. Up to 50 percent of it could be diverted to other areas such as air-quality or mass-transit projects rather than highway construction.

Legislation to deregulate the Indiana electric utility industry (SB-648) was introduced and debated but seemed unlikely to make it out of the Senate Commerce Committee. The Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator Inc., an organization to facilitate transmission of electricity from utility to utility and to coordinate rates among members due to utility deregulation, decided on central Indiana for its \$150 million high-technology control center. The group currently has 11 member utilities including Cinergy, Hoosier Energy, Southern Indiana Gas and Electric Co., and the Wabash Valley Power Association. The North American Electric Reliability Council, a national agency that has oversight over the industry's year 2000 preparations, is expecting few problems when the year changes to 2000. Cinergy Corp. stated that it has been testing its systems and should be ready. All five of the investor-owned electric utilities and 18 of 30 municipal electric utilities met the December 15 deadline to provide information to the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission on plans to meet the "Y2K" problem. Many other utilities did not meet the deadline. The parent company of Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO), Nipsco Industries Inc., will change its name to NiSource Inc. However, NIPSCO's name will not change.

Regulatory issues

A proposal for surface-miner training in the aggregates industry prepared by the Coalition for Effective Miner Training, called "Part 46" training regulations, was presented to the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) on February 1. MSHA announced in December final revisions to Part 48 training regulations that will be in effect until Part 46 is finalized. MSHA would receive an increase of \$13 million in the Clinton administration's budget proposal announced February 1.

Metals

A provision was included in President Clinton's budget proposal to Congress in February that would provide tax breaks of \$300 million for steel companies. The tax breaks are compensation for lost income due to large quantities of cheap steel imports. In addition, Congress approved funds to assist laid-off steel workers. Approximately 10,000 individuals have been laid off nationally. A no-layoff clause on a United Steelworkers contract will expire in July which may result in layoffs of up to 100,000 according to the head of the United Steelworkers. Japan was also warned to stop flooding the U.S. with cheap steel, or trade sanctions would be imposed. The U.S. Department of Commerce announced in early February that imports from Japan and other nations dropped significantly in December. At the news, prices for U.S. steel began to increase. However, the American Iron and Steel Institute reports that early U.S. census figures indicate that imports for the first two months of 1999 were close to 5 million net tons of steel, close to the level reported for the same period of 1998. Close to 42 million tons were imported in 1998, an 83 percent increase over an average of 23 million tons for the previous eight years. A bill limiting the quantity of steel imports (HR-975) passed in the U.S. House of Representatives and is now in the Senate. Other steel industry legislation was also introduced. In February the Clinton administration released a ruling that Japan and Brazil dumped steel illegally in the U.S. which could result in trade tariffs for those countries of up to 71 percent this summer. This is expected to greatly help the US steel industry. A settlement with Russia was made under which Russia will avoid tariffs by limiting its U.S. exports to 750,000 metric tons per year. Total U.S. production as of March 27 was 24,068,000 short tons, a decrease of 12.1 percent from the same period last year.

Indiana Mineral Industry News

Second Quarter 1999

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Company news

Irving Materials Inc. is proposing a new sand and gravel operation along Fall Creek near Fortville.

Silver Creek Sand & Gravel Co. plans to open a second pit near its existing one in Floyd County, but has not yet received permits.

Nationally, due to large demand for wallboard, gypsum wallboard plants have been operating 24 hours a day for the last year and a half. Four new wallboard plants should be operational by the end of this year, six new plants should begin operation within the next three years, and three current plants will add new production lines this year. Both US Gypsum and National Gypsum have increased their prices this year, about 25 percent overall.

In May, Pit and Quarry magazine listed Irving Materials Inc. 27th, and Mulzer Crushed Stone Co. 30th on its list of top 50 crushed stone producing companies in the U.S. Irving Materials Inc. also ranked 48th on the magazine's list of top sand and gravel producing companies in the U.S.

Friends of the Limestone Country Trail, a group that planned to build a trail from Bloomington to Lawrence County along the CSX abandoned Monon railroad line, donated its remaining \$49,600 to the Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department. The Limestone Country Trail plan was defeated in court by neighboring land owners, including Victor Oolitic Stone Co. for privacy and liability reasons.

Construction industry developments

The state will spend \$709 million this year on road improvements, more than any previous year. Of this amount, approximately \$108 million will be spent on interstate improvements. The state's largest single expense, \$40 million, will be used to continue construction of the Hoosier Heartland Highway linking Fort Wayne and Lafayette in northern Indiana. About \$65.2 million will be spent in Marion County with the largest Marion County expense this year, \$28.5 million, being spent at the Emerson Avenue interchange on I-465. An additional \$26.5 million will be used to widen and realign Indiana 46 between Bloomington and Ellettsville. The money is from both state and federal sources. In May, an additional \$124 million to be divided among 55 highway projects in 32 states was made available by the federal government from last year's national highway bill. The additional funds will support projects improving north-south trade

corridors and infrastructure along U.S. borders. Indiana will receive \$2 million of these funds for the Hoosier Heartland Highway.

In addition, the state will provide \$200 million over two years for Indiana county, city, and town road improvements to be funded from the state's surplus.

U.S. Secretary of Transportation, Rodney Slater, met with interested groups to discuss proposed routes for the I-69 extension through southern Indiana on April 7 in Indianapolis. Bloomington City Council members held a meeting on April 27, with 375 area residents in attendance, to hear pros and cons of having the I-69 interstate extension run past Bloomington. Crane Division, Naval Surface Warfare Center, the state's 12th largest employer, expressed its support for that route for the extension of I-69 south of Indianapolis. The state plans to spend two years studying possible routes. Indiana and seven other states will share a \$10.4 million federal grant to do environmental studies of possible routes for the extension of I-69 to Mexico.

Harrison County will spend \$2 million to pave 75 out of 300 miles of the county's gravel roads. The funds normally run in the area of \$600,000 each year, but has increased due to casino gambling revenues.

The Safe, Quiet and Durable Highway Institute will be formed this year at Purdue University with support funds from the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT). The institute will study ways to improve pavements to reduce noise from automobiles and trucks. The institute will receive matching funds of \$3 million by 2003 from INDOT. Other funds will come from Purdue and industry.

The town of Pendleton plans to develop an industrial park on 213 acres of land recently deeded to the town by the Indiana Department of Correction. The town must develop the land within 15 years or unused land will revert to the state.

A \$50 million private medium-security prison may be built in Indiana. Wackenhut Corrections Corp. is looking at several sites in Indiana, including one at Muncie.

The Indianapolis Zoo plans to add a \$51 million aquarium, one of the three largest in the nation. Construction is planned to begin in 2001 with completion in two years.

Regulatory issues

MSHA published proposed Part 46 training rules for noncoal and nonmetal mines in the Federal Register on April 14. Four public meetings to discuss the proposal were held around the country in May and all written comments were to be submitted by June 16. By law, regulations must be finalized by September 30.

MSHA reopened a comment period to discuss its proposed rules for communications regarding

the handling of hazardous materials at both coal and metal/nonmetal mines.

In May, MSHA initiated the Small Mines Initiative visiting the 5,000 small metal/nonmetal mines in the US for inspections and safety talks in response to an increase in the number of fatal accidents that have occurred at this type of operation within the past year. Information was also provided regarding the proposed Part 46 training rules.

In April, a coalition of mining and manufacturing trade associations requested a meeting with J. Davitt McAteer, the director of MSHA, to discuss a proposed noise rule setting a permissible exposure level of 90 dBA during an eight-hour time weighted average. Plants are not allowed to achieve this level of exposure through the use of earplugs and muffs for employees, but must use engineering and administrative methods of control. Affected industries believe that the cost of compliance has been underestimated by the agency. The request was denied due to constraints of the Administrative Procedures Act. A hearing on the proposed rule was held May 26 before the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Subcommittee on Employment, Safety, and Training. The rule should be released in July.

On April 1, Governor Frank O'Bannon appointed Lori F. Kaplan, deputy director of the Department of Natural Resources Bureau of Water and Resource Regulation, as the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's new commissioner.

Metals

Qualitech Steel Corp. at Pittsboro in Hendricks County, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. The company opened late in June of 1998 about the same time the market began to be flooded with cheap foreign imports. In addition, a damaged furnace shut down the operation for four weeks. A bankruptcy judge decided not to put the plant up for quick auction so it was shut down and the 350 workers were idled. Steel Dynamics, with other unidentified companies, and Ispat Inland among others have expressed interest in acquiring Qualitech. At least five companies submitted bids for the company in late June. This is the fourth U.S. steel company to close in the past year, many due to the import problem.

Weirton Steel, in association with Koninklijke Hoogovens NV of the Netherlands, plans to open its GALVPRO L.P. galvanizing plant in Jeffersonville this year with a 300,000-ton capacity.

Bethlehem Steel Corp. is making improvements to its hot strip mill and will invest \$70 million in one of two continuous casters.

USX Corp., Gary Works, settled a lawsuit with IDEM stemming from air violations from 1994 to 1998. The company will have to pay \$2.2 million including \$1.95 million for installation and maintenance of air pollution control equipment and a \$207,400 civil penalty which will be used for other environmental problems in the state. The company will also have to replace a blast furnace by December 31.

AK Steel Holdings Corp. announced plans to merge with its former parent company, Armco Inc. based in Pittsburgh, PA to form the fifth largest steel-producing company in the country. AK Steel operates a plant in Rockport.

HR-975 which was designed to protect U.S. steel production from foreign imports passed the U.S. House of Representatives in March, but failed to pass the Senate (S-395). Opponents stated that the bill would violate international trade laws and could result in trade retaliation. A bill (HR-1664) to help the steel industry recover with loans ranging between \$25 and \$250 million in government-backed loans passed the Senate and was sent to the House. Loans should be applied for by the end of 2001 and repaid by the end of 2005. The program is designed to prevent more layoffs and plant closings.

In April, the U.S. International Trade Commission found that imports of cut-to-length steel plates from six countries had hurt U.S. steel production and could lead to tariffs. The agency in June found that imports of hot-rolled carbon steel flat products from Japan had hurt the U.S. Steel industry and will result in duties against that country ranging from 18-67 percent. Antidumping suits on cold-rolled carbon steel flat products were filed with the agency in June by Bethlehem Steel Corp., Gulf States Steel, Ispat Inland Inc., LTV Steel Co. Inc., Steel Dynamics Inc., U.S. Steel Group of USX Corp., the United Steelworkers of America, and Weirton Steel Corp. The suits were filed against Argentina, Brazil, China, Indonesia, Japan, Russia, South Africa, Slovakia, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, and Venezuela. National Steel Corp. filed the same suits with the exception of Japan.

Partly due to the steel industry problem, Bethlehem Steel and United Steelworkers of America reached early agreement on a tentative five-year labor contract.

Total year-to-date steel production at the end of the quarter was 49,647,000 tons, a decrease of 10.4 percent from the same period last year.

Union employees at Auburn Foundry went on strike May 2 after the employees rejected a company proposed three-year contract. The foundry makes brake parts for General Motors, and other items.

Indiana Mineral Industry News

Third Quarter 1999

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Production

Nationally, the U.S. Geological Survey reports that crushed stone production was up 7.4 percent during the first quarter of 1999 compared to the first quarter of 1998, and construction sand and gravel production increased by 13.7 percent for the same period.

A forecast published by the CIT Group/Equipment Financing predicts that total U.S. aggregate production will increase by 6 percent through 1999, but have zero growth in 2000 due to a projected slowdown in housing construction. The group projects that recent federal transportation legislation will result in less financial gain for the industry than originally thought due to inflation. However, several previous forecasts made by the company have not been accurate.

Company news

Ballenger Gravel purchased nearby Judd Stone in Franklin County. The company will continue to produce dimension limestone but has crushed stone for its own use and is considering the possibility of crushing stone commercially at that location.

A new crushed stone quarry is being planned near the town of Stinesville in Monroe County by a new company called Pembroke Calox, Inc., based in Boca Raton, Florida. Another Stinesville area business, Hoosier Calcium Corp. plans to install an air filtration system to help control dust from the operation, estimated at a cost of about \$200,000.

Construction sand and gravel producers Paul C. Brudi Stone and Gravel Co., Inc., Rieth-Riley Construction Co., Inc., Hunt Lake Materials Div., Hunt Lake Pit; and Vulcan Materials Co., Harner Pit, have stopped producing since the Directory of Industrial Mineral Producers in Indiana was published in February of 1998.

General Shale Products joined the Wienerberger Group in July. Wienerberger Group is the leading brick manufacturer in the world and is based in Vienna, Austria.

Rogers Group, Inc., sold Rogers Building Supplies in Bloomington to Pathway Group. Rogers Group has run the operation for 50 years. The company will operate as RBS, LLC.

Dyckerhoff will acquire Lone Star Industries, Inc. Dyckerhoff is an international cement and

building materials company headquartered in Germany. The Portland Cement Association forecasts a continued increase in U.S. cement consumption through at least 2003. About 103 million metric tons could be produced nationally in 1999 according to the agency.

National Gypsum Company will donate about \$250,000 in wallboard to help Hurricane Floyd victims. Nationally, demand for drywall continued to be exceptionally high this quarter. One new plant opened this year, three new plants should be open by next year, and several others are planned.

Construction industry developments

Twenty-two Indiana city mayors sent a letter to Governor O'Bannon supporting the extension of I-69. Twenty-one mayors had signed a version of the letter supporting the extension passing near Bloomington. Mayor Stephen Goldsmith of Indianapolis had signed a different version of the letter which did not support any specific route. The letter had been written prior to the INDOT decision to review different routes for the interstate extension. Rallies were held in Indianapolis and Bloomington in late July by persons opposed to extending I-69 through currently undeveloped land. Indiana will share, with six other states, a \$10 million federal grant for environmental studies related to the highway's development. Indiana's share of the grant will be \$1.25 million. A decision was made to hire one company to do the environmental assessment, preliminary engineering work, and to plan a route through Evansville and Henderson County, Kentucky, which should shorten the project by about 18 months.

Eli Lilly and Co. announced that they would spend \$1 billion over the next 10 years to expand their operations in Indianapolis, adding 7,500 jobs. State and local incentives will help support the expansion.

Ground was broken for the new Indiana State Museum in Indianapolis on August 30.

A public meeting was held in Jeffersonville on September 1 to discuss possible routes and other questions related to building new bridges across the Ohio River in the Jeffersonville, Indiana and Louisville, Kentucky area. Currently 30 routes are under consideration with that number expected to drop to 10 or less by year's end. An environmental impact study is underway with a draft of the report expected next summer and a final report by spring of 2001. The Federal Highway Administration will make the final decisions. The \$55.5 million Natcher bridge spanning the Ohio River between Rockport, Indiana and Maceo, Kentucky is about half done. About 25,000 cubic yards of concrete and 11 million pounds of steel will be used for the bridge.

The Ohio River Greenway Project, along seven miles of the Ohio River in Clark and Floyd Counties, received \$3.29 million in federal funds to start the project. An environmental study of the area, while not yet complete, is also looking favorable for the plans. The project will begin with a \$910,000 terraced-lawn amphitheater near the Kennedy Bridge. The project will eventually also include a road, playgrounds, picnic areas, bike path, an overlook of the Ohio

River, a bridge spanning Silver Creek, a boat ramp, and a walking trail with the total cost of improvements estimated at \$36 million.

The State Budget Committee approved grants in the amount of \$28.7 million for improvements in Indiana's state parks, reservoirs, state forests and state historic sites. Almost every site will receive some portion of the funding.

Legislative developments

New federal legislation aimed to reform part of the Endangered Species Act, S. 1100, was introduced and then approved by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. Temporary federal funding to last through August was voted by Congress to help airport construction projects while Congress attempted to determine a long-term spending plan. A bill to reauthorize airport improvement spending, H.R. 1000 also called AIR-21, passed the House, but is still in the Senate. S. 1114 was also introduced. The bill would require MSHA to meet with panels of small mining businesses to discuss possible effects of new proposed rules. A bill was introduced, S. 1053, to allow grandfathering of highway transportation projects in areas where clean air standards have not been met.

Regulatory issues

Lori F. Kaplan, former deputy director of the DNR's Bureau of Water and Resource Regulation, was appointed commissioner of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management and Cristine M. Klika, former deputy commissioner of the Indiana Department of Transportation, was appointed commissioner of that department.

The Monroe County Plan Commission considered revisions to rules passed in 1996 regulating land use in karst areas. In practice, the rules have been difficult to follow. One proposed revision is to allow an exemption for mineral extraction in karst areas. The right of a property owner to extract minerals in nonurban areas is guaranteed by state law.

Metals

Federal regulators approved the merging of AK Steel Corp. and its former parent company Armco, Inc. to form the fifth largest steel company in the country.

Steel Dynamics can continue with plans to build a new steel mill in Whitley County after receiving an air permit for the plant.

Imports of steel from Brazil were restricted by President Clinton in July. No more than 295,000 metric tons of steel may be shipped into the U.S. from Brazil and prices for the steel were fixed somewhat above U.S. production rates. In July The U.S. Department of Commerce Department found steel companies in six countries guilty of steel dumping and proposed tariffs against five

of those countries. The U.S. Commerce Department announced earlier in the week that several of those countries may also have offered subsidies. President Clinton promised to hold an international conference on the problems associated with steel imports. H.R. 1664, the Emergency Steel, Oil and Gas Loan Guarantee Act passed the House in August after passing in the Senate in June. The bill was signed into law in mid-August. H.R. 2612, the Trade Policy Reform Act, was introduced in July.

Bankruptcy proceedings continued for Qualitech Steel Corp. The state could lose \$33 million dollars in moral obligation bonds if a buyer is not found for the company. Hendricks County and Pittsboro also invested \$27.35 million in bonds for road and other improvements to get the company started. Production is continuing at the plant. In July, the bankruptcy court gave approval for the company's banks to take the operation. The international group of banks have a \$300 million investment in the company. The Pittsboro operation was split from another Qualitech operation in Texas and was renamed Qualitech Steel SBQ LLC.

In July, LTV Steel reached an agreement with IDEM to reduce soot emissions by using pollution control equipment on one of its furnaces. The company will also pay a civil fine of \$84,500.

Indiana Mineral Industry News

Fourth Quarter 1999

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Production

Total aggregate production in the East North Central Geographic Division, of which Indiana is a part, increased 4% during the first half of 1999 over the same period in 1998 according to the US Geological Survey. Nationally, an increase of 5% was reported for the same time period.¹ Rock Products Magazine forecast that national production would increase by another 5%, both nationally and for the East-North Central Region, during the year 2000.²

Company news

Dyckerhoff AG, based in Germany, acquired Lone Star Industries for approximately \$1.2 billion. Lone Star's name will not change.³ The Portland Cement Association forecasts that 112.24 million mt of cement will be consumed in 2000, an increase from its forecast of 109.24 million mt for 1999.⁴ A proposal was made by the U.S. EPA to continue treating cement kiln dust as a non-hazardous waste as long as specified provisions were met to prevent the release of potentially hazardous materials from landfilled materials into the air and ground water.⁵ Agricultural use of the waste would be regulated as well. The EPA also set new emissions limits for cement kilns burning hazardous wastes for fuel.⁶

Hoosier Calcium installed a baghouse to control limestone dust at its plant in Stinesville.⁷

State and local fire personnel fought two noncommercial peat bog fires, one on a farm in Howard County, and one near Gary. While the causes of the fires were unknown, dry conditions caused them to burn for several weeks.⁸

Ball-Foster will close its Marion plant, reportedly due to low glass-container sales. The plant produces glass liquor and beer bottles, as well as food containers and decorative vases. Two other Indiana Ball-Foster plants will continue production.⁹

The wallboard industry was very active during 1999 with four new plants constructed nationwide in Alabama, Pennsylvania, Indiana, and Tennessee to help meet the growing demand.¹⁰

Construction industry developments

The federal government approved an environmental impact statement for widening and

extending U.S. 231 in Spencer County. Construction on the five-year \$120 million project is expected to begin in 2002. The new construction will connect I-64 to the William H. Natcher Bridge, near Rockport, currently under construction. The AK steel plant, which will benefit from the area road improvements, began a \$150 million expansion.¹¹

A second Toyota plant is planned for the Princeton area. The plant will cost \$800 million and will receive up to \$39 million in State incentives.¹²

Purdue University plans to construct a \$60 million building for its School of Engineering. This along with other improvements to the university over a 10-year period will total \$200 million and increase total campus space by nearly 60 percent.¹³ Purdue University also dedicated its recently created Institute of Safe, Quiet and Durable Highways.¹⁴

Ground was broken for a 591 home project with golf course in the Henryville area.¹⁵

A state grant of \$60,000 was awarded to three Purdue University engineers to provide a workshop training program for highway workers in the Vincennes area on how to identify weakened roads and bridges following earthquakes.¹⁶

Indiana is one of seven states that have fully implemented Superpave binder specification and mix design procedures.¹⁷

Legislative developments

Some federal wetlands policy reforms favorable to the aggregates industry were included in H.R. 2605 signed into law this quarter.¹⁸ S.1053 was approved by the Senate Environment Committee. The legislation would allow grandfathering of highway transportation projects in areas where clean air standards have not been met.¹⁹ S. 82, A bill to reauthorize airport improvement spending, passed the Senate; an airport funding bill had previously passed the House. In addition, Congress released \$290 million in airport improvement funds that had been held up while Congress attempted to determine a long-term spending plan.²⁰ However, time ran out before a compromise bill could be finalized or another temporary funding extension could be granted.²¹

Regulatory issues

Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) released a final rule on workplace noise which requires mine operators to use any engineering and administrative control methods necessary to control miners' noise exposure that averages 85 decibels over an eight-hour period. If noise exceeds 90 decibels over an eight-hour period and other methods are not successful in reducing noise, then hearing protectors may be used to control noise levels. Noise levels must not exceed 115 decibels over an eight-hour period. Compliance is required by September 13, 2000.²² MSHA also released its final Part 46 training rule called "Training and Retraining of Miners Engaged in

Shell Dredging or Employed at Sand, Gravel, Surface Stone, Surface Clay, Colloidal Phosphate, or Surface Limestone Mines for the Mining Industry." The industry helped the agency to formulate this rule which becomes effective Oct. 2, 2000.²³

A rule has been proposed for federal procurement agencies that would require those agencies to first consider recycled materials for their construction needs before obtaining new materials.²⁴

Metals

Indiana again ranked first nationally in steel production during 1999. Total Indiana production was 25,353,914 short tons of raw steel and total U.S. production was 107,236,747 short tons.²⁵

Prices for steel are rising, indicating overall improvement in the U.S. steel industry. Steel imports fell 9% in November, 29% lower than a year ago.²⁶ Indiana's steel industry is requesting that trucks be allowed to carry more weight on Indiana highways.²⁷

The strike that began in May continued at Auburn Foundry with no sign of settlement.²⁸

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