

Indiana Mineral Industry News

First Quarter 2002

By Kathryn R. Shaffer
Indiana Geological Survey

Production

According to data published by the U.S. Geological Survey during the fourth quarter of 2001, national production of crushed stone reached 413 million metric tons and production of construction sand and gravel reached 268 million metric tons, demonstrating a gain of 11% and decrease of 1.8%, respectively, when compared to the same period of 2000. Indiana with production of 14.3 million metric tons of crushed stone and 6.1 million metric tons during the fourth quarter experienced an increase of 5.1% and a decrease of 0.2%, respectively for the same time period.¹

Jim Owens, Executive Director of the Indiana Limestone Institute, was interviewed along with other industry experts for an article in the magazine *Stone* forecasting dimension stone consumption for the coming year. He reported an excellent year for Indiana Limestone during 2001 and many contracts signed for 2002. He said that the industry had benefitted from the large number of government projects in recent years, as well as an increase in the construction of high-end residential homes. There have also been a number of renovations and restorations.²

The Portland Cement Association predicts an overall decrease of 4.9% in consumption during 2002 due to the recession and decreased construction activity. An increase of 2% is forecast for 2003 with improved outlook following 2003. Masonry cement consumption is expected to decrease by 6.0% during 2002.³

Industry news

The panel of limestone milled by the Bybee Stone Company with the inscription of the quote of a statement made by President Bush, "Terrorist acts can shake the foundations of our biggest buildings, but cannot touch the foundation of America" and signed by employees of the mill, arrived at the Pentagon where it was slated to have been placed in the reconstruction with the inscription side in. The stone was seen by officials and will not be placed inside the wall, but may be given to the Smithsonian Institute where it may become part of a traveling exhibit. For the time being it is on display at the construction site at the Pentagon and some construction workers at the site have added their signatures to it.⁴ The Bybee Stone Co. was featured in a segment for CBS News Sunday Morning.⁵

The South Carolina Museum of Natural Science received an Award of Excellence in the third annual Project Awards Program of the Marble Institute of America. The exterior of the building and paving were largely composed of Indiana Limestone provided by The Indiana Limestone Company. Granite and marble were used in construction of the building as well.⁶

Lehigh Portland Cement Co., headquartered in Allentown, Pa., and with a plant in Mitchell, Ind., changed its name to Lehigh Cement Co.^{7,8}

Lone Star Cement Company's Greencastle Plant won an award in the first annual Cement Industry Environmental Awards presented by a group of trade organizations for its plant expansion completed in 2000 which converted the plant to a semi-dry pyro-processing system.⁹

Critser Companies which operates a quarry and several sand and gravel pits in the state was written up in a recent article in AggMan magazine for its activities in crushing and recycling asphalt. The company will add another crusher for that activity in a few years if all continues to go well.¹⁰

Several Indiana aggregate operations received awards in the National Stone and Sand and Gravel Association's (NSSGA's) About Face Program for the year 2001. The award recognizes mining operations that have made outstanding "beautification" efforts. Sellersburg Stone Co., Inc. at Sellersburg won a First Step award. Hanson Aggregates Midwest Region, Hayden Quarry at Hayden, Rogers Group, Inc., Morgan County Sand & Gravel at Martinsville, and two Liters of Indiana, Inc., quarries: the Atkins Quarry at Jeffersonville and the Cooper Lane Quarry at Sellersburg all won Showplace awards.¹¹

Stinesville is planning a limestone statue of a stone cutter and message near the entrance to the town to honor the importance of the dimension limestone industry to the town's early development.^{12,13,14}

Lake levels in the Great Lakes are expected to rise during the summer of 2002 which should help industries that ship on them.¹⁵

The U.S. Bureau of the Census plans to take an economic census of the mining industry during 2002. Aggregate operations with between 5 to 19 employees should receive forms.¹⁶

Construction industry developments

President Bush signed the Department of Transportation Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2002 in December. The bill provides \$31.8 billion for highways, \$3.3 billion for airport construction and \$6.74 billion for public transit. All amounts are increases over 2001.¹⁷ The amounts awarded may vary greatly on a state-to-state basis due to the nation's economic problems and the state's necessity to come up with matching funds. Maintaining the Indiana state highway system costs between \$450 to \$500 million annually.¹⁸ In February, an Indiana House of Representatives committee approved a 2-cent per gallon tax increase over a two year period. The tax increase would generate about \$66 million per year for road construction. This is far below the 10-cent per gallon tax increase in the original proposal that would have generated \$165 million annually for road construction. Expiration of a state bonding program occurs this year which could negatively impact road construction.¹⁹ Nationally, the construction materials industry fared much better than many other segments of the economy during 2001 due largely to the stability provided to highway construction by the federal TEA-21 legislation.²⁰

An \$8.5 billion cut in federal highway spending has been proposed by the Bush Administration for

the year 2003, dropping the allocated funds from \$31.8 billion in 2002 to approximately \$23.3 billion in 2003 representing a 27% cut. Such a decrease would be expected to seriously impede highway construction in areas already anticipating cuts at the state level.^{21,22} In response, S. 1917 and H.R. 3694, the "Highway Funding Restoration Act," which restores at least \$4.4 billion dollars and brings funding up the \$27.7 billion level set by Tea-21 were introduced. The additional funds would come from the Highway Trust Fund.²³ A lobbying effort by several trade organizations helped to get the legislation moving.²⁴ The year 2003 is the last year of highway construction funding provided for under TEA-21.²⁵ Senate hearings in preparation for 2003 legislation will be held.²⁶ Indiana would receive an additional \$89.8 million if the legislation passes.^{27, 28}

The Indiana Department of Transportation hired a Washington, DC law firm to advise them on the I-69 environmental study.²⁹ A study was conducted in 2000 on traffic entering and leaving Vanderburgh County. Those data are being analyzed by a computer to help determine the best route for the proposed I-69 extension connecting Evansville and Henderson, Ky.³⁰ Four Indiana legislators formed a coalition called "Legislators for a Fiscally Responsible I-69." The legislators are promoting the I-70/U.S. 41 route for the interstate extension.³¹ Field studies for I-69 environmental impacts along proposed corridor routes were conducted.³²

Some citizens and environmental groups contend that the results of a four year environmental-impact and engineering study concerning the best route for two potential bridges over the Ohio River in the Louisville area, released in November, was incomplete. The charge was refuted by the engineering company which conducted the study and some state legislators.³³ The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released an assessment of the environmental-impact study which stated that three of the nine proposed routes were potentially harmful to wetlands.³⁴

A group of people comprised primarily of farmers and developers met with politicians in Clark County during February to protest a plan to slow down subdivision development. The farmers are concerned that the plan will prevent them from being able to sell their land profitably. The politicians are concerned about costs of providing utilities and other infrastructure to development projects.³⁵ Meanwhile, in Floyd County, developers are seeking approval for expansion of the county's largest subdivision, The Woods of Lafayette with homes in the price range of \$250,000 - \$275,000 with some houses still under construction. The new part of the subdivision plans for homes that will be priced at about \$500,000 each and the extension will be called the Club House Estates Section. The subdivision is located near New Albany.³⁶ A growth plan was approved for the town of Ellettsville, zoning codes will be revised.³⁷ A final draft of a growth plan for the city of Bloomington was released to the public for comment.³⁸

Phase II of improvements to S.R. 9 in the Anderson area were slated to begin in March.³⁹ Also, a \$16.3 million contract was awarded by INDOT to a company to do total reconstruction on a portion of U.S. 30 at Columbia City along with other improvements and to resurface and make additional improvements to U.S. 24 between I-469 and the Ohio state line.⁴⁰ Construction work also began on the I-465/I-70 interchange. A company was awarded \$67 million for the project, with a \$1 million incentive package for early project completion.⁴¹

The Road Information Program published a report stating that about 23 percent of the nation's major roads in large urban areas need to be repaired.⁴²

Environmental and regulatory issues

Dave Lauriski, U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) chief, stated in recent meetings that MSHA plans to focus attention on hazard communication, the exposure limit for asbestos, respirable dust standards, and improvement or elimination of regulations.⁴³ He reported that they have a shorter regulatory list than in recent years. Many proposals from the Clinton era have been dropped.^{44,45} He also said that the agency preferred use of the term “safety and health compliance specialist” instead of the term “inspector.”⁴⁶

Nationally, mining fatalities hit an all-time low of 19 workers in stone and sand and gravel operations. This may be due, at least in part, from the MSHA Part 46 training regulations which have been in effect for a whole year.⁴⁷ Miners in 44 states and the Navajo nation will receive more safety training with \$7.8 million in grants provided by MSHA.⁴⁸

All cement kilns must meet new air emissions standards by June 10.⁴⁹ Cement kilns that burn hazardous materials have other new air standards to meet. The standards replace those set in 1999 by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and must be met by September 2003.⁵⁰

The EPA decided that they would not consider fugitive dust from mining operations when deciding if Clean Air Act Title V permits were needed.⁵¹

A new publication on crystalline silica, *Silica Risk Communication Handbook*, was published by the NSSGA.⁵²

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers revised its Nationwide Permit 44 rule, easing some of the requirements regarding wetlands, but not totally rewriting the rule.⁵³ The NSSGA is still not pleased with the revisions and believes the rule is too cumbersome on the industry.⁵⁴ Additional changes were made to the rule by the agency.⁵⁵

The average amount of time has been cut by about 8 months for the Federal Highway Administration to process environmental impact documents for major highway construction projects. The agency has been attempting to streamline the process.⁵⁶

Clarifications to the MSHA’s Diesel Particulate Matter Rule were made in response to industry litigation.⁵⁷

Metals

In early March President Bush announced a plan to impose stronger tariffs on imports of steel. The three-year plan invokes tariffs of 8 to 30 percent and went into effect on March 20. The type of steel imported determines the tariff imposed. Four countries, Canada, Mexico, Israel, and Jordan are exempted from the tariffs due to free-trade agreements with those countries. The steel industry had pressed for tariffs of 40 percent over four years.⁵⁸ European countries could lose \$2 billion per year in lost sales.⁵⁹ An economist at Purdue University stated that Indiana’s economy could ultimately be injured by the tariffs even though the state is the nation’s largest producer of steel because there are many more companies in the state that use steel in manufacturing than actually produce steel and those companies’ production costs will go up. Prices for the items they produce

can also be expected to increase. About 1/4 of the nation's steel is produced in Indiana.⁶⁰

The U.S. International Trade Commission ruled in February that imports of stainless steel bar had hurt the U.S. steel bar industry which allowed the U.S. Commerce Department to continue to impose penalties on imports of the product.⁶¹

The steel industry continued pressing the federal government to assume more of the costs of retiree health benefits.⁶²

W. L. Ross & Co., a New York investment firm, made a \$325 million bid for the LTV Corp. in late February.^{63,64} A bankruptcy judge quickly approved the sale. Besides assets, the company also assumed environmental costs and liabilities totaling \$200 million. The Indiana Harbor Works facility may call back 1,500 to 1,700 employees. The deal also includes mills and related facilities in Ohio and Illinois. About 3,500 workers had been laid off. The steel company will be renamed.^{65,66}

Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection was filed by National Steel Corp, South Bend, in March, one day after the tariffs were announced. The company will continue merger talks with U.S. Steel. The company is the fifth largest steel company in the nation.^{67,68}

The Indiana Senate Finance Committee unanimously approved an interest-free loan for Porter County in northwestern Indiana due to problems caused by the bankruptcy filing of the Bethlehem Steel Company. However, the state is faced with a \$1.3 billion deficit and the eventual passage of the measure is not certain.⁶⁹

United States Steel Corporation began trading as an independent company at the beginning of the year.⁷⁰ The company received ISO 14001 environmental registration for all of its U.S. steel-producing facilities, the first integrated mill in the country to do so. The standards are set by an international organization.⁷¹ Bethlehem Steel Corp., Burns Harbor facility, achieved ISO 14001 certification last fall and international certification for providing quality products to the automotive industry in February of this year.⁷² Bethlehem Steel also became a charter member of the U.S. EPA's Climate Leaders Program which sets high company standards to help control greenhouse gases.⁷³

Kasle Steel Corp., plans to build a steel processing plant in either Louisville, Ky., or the Clark Maritime Centre in Clark County by the end of the year. The company provides steel for the Ford Motor Co.⁷⁴

L.E.O. Development Co. decided not to build its \$176 million hot rolled coils processing plant and company headquarters in Indiana at Clark Maritime Centre, but instead will build it in Kentucky at the Riverport Commerce Center.⁷⁵

There was an explosion in a blast furnace at U.S. Steel, Gary Works, injuring three employees and a fire in a furnace at Bethlehem Steel Corp., Burns Harbor, with no injuries.⁷⁶ The Burns Harbor mill, and two other company mills in Pennsylvania will supply a total of 40,000 tons of steel plate over a period of three years to a Philadelphia shipyard for the construction of five ships.⁷⁷

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Second Quarter 2002

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Indiana Geological Survey

Production

According to data published by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) for the first quarter of 2002 Indiana production of crushed stone reached 8.1 million metric tons and Indiana production of construction sand and gravel reached 5.5 million metric tons demonstrating decreases of 5.1 percent and 6.3 percent, respectively, when compared to the same period of 2001.¹ Nationally, the year 2001 represented the highest production ever reported for any single year for both crushed stone and construction sand and gravel.² Indiana again ranked first nationally in all dimension stone production in the U.S.³ Indiana cement production was 514 thousand metric tons during the first quarter of 2002, a 5.3 percent increase over the 488 thousand metric tons produced during the first quarter of 2001.⁴

Industry news

Martin Marietta Aggregates continued to seek permission to expand its 96th street operation in Indianapolis.⁵ Property along 96th street has also become very valuable as residential property with homes in the area selling for as much as \$450,000.⁶

Vulcan Materials Co. was ranked number one nationally in its industry category in a recent Fortune Magazine article on the most admired companies in America. It also placed well in other categories.^{7,8, 9,10} The company was the top producer of aggregates in the U.S. during 2000 according to the U.S. Geological Survey.¹¹

The Rogers Group received a Half Century Business Award from the Indiana Department of Commerce. Besides attaining 50 years of existence, a company must also demonstrate that it has historically provided community service. The company was begun in 1908.¹²

An article about Liter's Quarries appeared in the May issue of North American Quarry News. The Atkin's Quarry recently received an Indiana Mineral Aggregates Association Excellence in Mining Gold Plant Award.¹³

An article about Mathes Stone Quarry also appeared in the May issue of North American Quarry News.¹⁴

An article appeared in the Aggregates Manager trade journal authored by Bruce Mason and Bill Welgoss detailing the results of an industry survey to identify the top challenges and

opportunities of the aggregates industry. The top challenge and opportunity listed was the need to inform the general public about the importance of mining.¹⁵

Bybee Stone Company hosted its annual Limestone Sculpture Symposium in June for artists interested in working in the medium.^{16,17}

The U.S. Gypsum Company, with a plant near Shoals, celebrated 100 years of operation.¹⁸

Work began on a limestone statue honoring Stinesville, Indiana's, importance in the early development of the dimension limestone quarry industry.^{19,20}

Helmut S. Erhard, President and Chief Executive Officer of Lehigh Cement Co. was interviewed about the company's position in the North American cement industry in the March/April edition of Cement Americas.²¹

A new association called Industrial Minerals Association – North America (IMA-NA) began. The association includes producers of raw materials such as ball clay, industrial sand, talc, soda ash, feldspar, mica and zeolite and associated trade groups and industries.^{22,23,24}

The Indiana Geological Survey received a grant from the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) to produce a digital atlas of the state that will consist of maps and data that should be of interest to those in the mineral industries.²⁵

Construction industry developments

The U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate each passed emergency supplemental bills that restore funding for highway projects for 2003. Both versions restore \$4.4 billion for highway projects, but the House bill firewalls the funds, while the Senate bill does not.²⁶ A federal bill that could provide funds for making runway improvements to the Gary airport was approved by a Senate Committee and was sent to the Senate floor. The bill is designed, primarily to expand Chicago's O'Hare airport.²⁷ A designer was selected for building the new Indianapolis Airport terminal which is estimated at \$939 million and is expected to be completed in 2007.^{28,29}

An increased gasoline tax was included in the state's budget and tax bill to help pay for future road construction projects. The increase raised the tax from the current 15 cents to 18 cents per gallon.³⁰ About \$99 million a year will be added to highway funds due to the increased tax. Counties will receive some of the increase; the amount is based on population and the number of miles of road in the counties.³¹

Several road maintenance projects were scheduled for the summer season by INDOT. More than \$680 million will be spent this year as part of the Crossroads 2000 funding program. Topping the list is \$67 million for the I-70/I-465 eastside interchange project. Other projects include \$50 million for I-65 repair work near Louisville, Kentucky, \$34 million for I-64 repair work near Evansville, \$29.9 million for the I-65/U.S. 30 Merrillville interchange, \$23.5 million for I-74

southeast to London Road, and \$23.1 million for I-80/94 and the Borman Expressway interchange. Many other contracts were awarded for the season as well. Highway funding is expected to decrease in upcoming years.³² The state is considering an I-65 interchange in Lake County, but has not decided on a specific location.³³

The environmental impact study to study routes for the proposed I-69 extension through southwest Indiana is expected to cost about \$9.1 million, an increase over the initial estimate of \$7.7 million. The extra cost is attributed to the need to study additional routes not initially planned for, to comply with stricter historic preservation rules, and to include more public involvement than in the original plan.^{34,35} INDOT does not plan to build an I-69 loop around Evansville at this time; the idea was being promoted by the Evansville area.³⁶ INDOT and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet selected for further study three routes for an I-69 bridge crossing the Ohio River between Evansville and Henderson, Kentucky.³⁷ They also tentatively have decided on the locations for two new bridges crossing the Ohio River in the Jeffersonville, Indiana and Louisville, Kentucky area.³⁸

About \$225 million will be spent by Eli Lilly and Co. in Indianapolis to build a research and office building. The project should be complete in 2005.³⁹

Construction is nearing completion on the \$65 million Cook Inc. complex in Bloomington.⁴⁰ Plans for three new buildings on the Indiana University Bloomington campus are continuing. A multidisciplinary science building and a lecture hall building are being planned. About \$40.5 million has been budgeted for these two projects. A humanities building is less far along in the planning stage.⁴¹

The \$105 million Indiana State Museum opened in May.⁴² It includes geologic displays and a major display about dimension limestone mining.

The old historic Indiana Cotton Mill at Cannelton, constructed of Mansfield Sandstone from the area, is being renovated into apartments at a cost of \$8.1 million.⁴³

Environmental and regulatory issues

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had its 2003 budget cut from \$4.5 billion to \$4.0 billion. The corps has a \$40 billion backlog in projects and it was strongly suggested that they reduce that backlog before beginning new projects.⁴⁴ The U.S. Geological Survey's Minerals Information program faced the possibility of a \$46.7 million budget cut from last year.⁴⁵

A final Hazard Communication (HazCom) rule designed to inform mine employees of hazards presented by chemicals used in the workplace was published by MSHA in June.^{46, 47}

The EPA was ordered by a federal court to proceed with releasing rules for on-road diesel trucks starting with 2007 truck models.⁴⁸ The EPA will work with the Office of Management and budget to develop regulations for off-road diesel vehicles and equipment.^{49,50} The collaboration

is expected to speed up the process.⁵¹

A policy has been issued by the Federal Highway Administration for federal procurement agencies that would encourage those agencies to first consider recycled materials for their construction needs before considering the use of new materials.⁵²

The EPA is expected to announce new rules for the regulation of emissions from asphalt plants by next May.⁵³

Federal legislation was in committee that would further regulate the interstate commerce of explosives. The legislation was introduced in response to concerns over terrorism, but would also affect the mining industry.⁵⁴

MSHA has plans for an Office of Small Mines designed to better serve the health and safety needs of smaller operations. They report that small operations with five or fewer employees have accident rates four times as high as operations with 20 or more employees. The agency is looking for a manager for the office.⁵⁵

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) released a report on respirable crystalline silica called "NIOSH Hazard Review: Health Effects of Occupational Exposure to Respirable Crystalline Silica," DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 2002-129.⁵⁶

The EPA has proposed a Water Quality Trading Policy similar to the one used by electric power plants to help control air pollution. Companies or facilities would earn credits by performing clean up procedures that exceed basic requirements. Such credits could then be traded to other companies or facilities.⁵⁷

Metals

Imports of steel were down 13.7 percent in April, compared to March, according to the U.S. Bureau of the Census. However, total steel imports are still 6.9 percent above 2001 levels for the same time period.⁵⁸

The makers of auto parts are spending more for raw materials since the steel tariffs took effect. Some companies are paying up to 70 percent more than before. There is also a shortage of steel in some areas as steelmakers step up production to meet the demand for domestic steel.⁵⁹ Tensions with affected countries have eased somewhat by the U.S. Department of Commerce allowing exclusions on imports of certain products.⁶⁰

Federal legislation was introduced that would help to facilitate consolidation of the steel industry by creating a trust fund for unfunded retiree health and life insurance benefits.⁶¹ Funding strategies were included.⁶²

LTV Corp., which had been in Chapter 11 bankruptcy, was acquired by International Steel Group.⁶³ The mill was put back into limited production and is expected to reach full production by September.⁶⁴

Nucor applied for an air permit for the closed Qualitech steel mill at Pittsboro, Hendricks County.^{65,66,67} It announced plans to purchase the mill for \$37 million. If the sale is completed the mill may possibly be back in production by mid 2003. Nucor owns a mill in nearby Crawfordsville that produces different products.^{68,69} Some back taxes are expected to be paid.⁷⁰ An article appeared in the Hoosier Times about why some mini-mills have been so successful in recent years in comparison to the integrated mills. The article concentrated on the success of Nucor Corp.⁷¹

Bethlehem Steel Corp. was delisted from the New York Stock Exchange in June because of its inability to maintain an average closing share price above \$1 per share. The company continues to operate under Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.^{72,73}

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) held a meeting to allow public input on a permit filed by Steel Dynamics Inc. to install a natural gas fired boiler and vacuum degasser at its new facility under construction in Whitley County.⁷⁴

The Bethlehem Steel Corp.'s Burns Harbor D blast furnace experienced problems and was taken out of operation for several weeks of repair in April.⁷⁵

The annual IDEM Toxic Release Inventory lists Lake County, a major steel-producing county, as leading the state in release of toxic chemicals. Spencer County, also a steel-producing county, took second place.⁷⁶ The Bush Administration has a Clear Skies Initiative which should help to improve air quality in the Great Lakes region. The EPA announced the Great Lakes Strategy 2002, a plan to reduce pollution in the Great Lakes.⁷⁷ As part of the settlement of a federal lawsuit, U.S. Steel is cleaning up a five-mile stretch of the east branch of the Grand Calumet River.⁷⁸

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Indiana Mineral Industry News

Third Quarter 2002

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Production

Coal production was 26.7 million short tons in the third quarter of 2002, a 3.8% decrease from the same period of the previous year, and ranking the state seventh, nationally.¹

According to data published by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) for the second quarter of 2002, the most current data available, Indiana production of crushed stone was 15.2 million mt and Indiana production of construction sand and gravel was 8.1 million mt demonstrating decreases of 0.2% and 6.2%, respectively, when compared to the same period of 2001.² A study conducted by the Associated Equipment Distributors shows that most construction-equipment distributors, nationwide, do not expect much growth this year. Second quarter financial results were released for major U.S. aggregate companies.³ Nationwide as tax revenues have decreased the states have spent less on highway construction.⁴

Industry news

The Indiana Department of Commerce will separate into 12 regional offices at Gary, South Bend, Fort Wayne, Lafayette/West Lafayette, Kokomo, Muncie, Terre Haute, Indianapolis, Bloomington, Madison, Evansville, and New Albany.⁵

The Indiana Limestone Company is providing dimension stone for the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia, Pa. About 85,000 tons of the Indiana stone will be used to enshrine the preamble to the Constitution which will be added later to the building and which is scheduled to open in 2003⁶. A nice article about repairing the Pentagon with Indiana Limestone was included in the August 15 issue of Stone magazine.⁷ Bybee Stone Co. completed that job and began a new one providing carved stone for the Kennedy-Warren Center in Washington, DC.⁸ A limestone statue of a stone cutter and message near the entrance to Stinesville to honor the importance of the dimension limestone industry to the town's early development was completed and Victor Oolitic Stone Co. donated property to the town for a park.^{9,10}

A previously worked coal mine near Terre Haute may be developed into a 125,000 sq. ft. automated brick plant. Clay from the area would be used for the plant which is estimated to cost about \$15 million to build.^{11,12}

Martin Marietta Aggregates held a concert featuring the Carmel Symphony Orchestra and choirs from area churches in its quarry in Carmel. The concert was held in the quarry, a catered dinner

was served, and an optional tour of the underground operation was offered. Proceeds benefitted the Carmel Symphony Orchestra.¹³

Liter's of Indiana, Inc., Jeffersonville Quarry, donated landscape stone for Whitehall House and Gardens in Louisville, Ky.¹⁴

The American Portland Cement Alliance has changed its name to the Portland Cement Association.^{15,16} The web site for the association is <http://cement.org>. An article about the new Slag Cement Association appeared in Cement Americas.¹⁷

The coal company AEI Resources Holding Inc. emerged in May from bankruptcy under the new name Horizon Natural Resources, and is now a publicly traded company. As such, the company reported a net loss of \$50.3 million for the first quarter of 2002 while still under the name of AEI Resources. The company is expecting an improved financial outlook under new leadership.¹⁸

Triad Mining Company received approval to make improvements to a 4.5 mile stretch of county road in Pike and Gibson Counties to use for hauling coal to a rail spur being built near Hazleton. With the use of the rail spur the company will be able to reduce its round-trip trucking miles from between 40 - 50 miles down to a total of seven miles.¹⁹

A successful test was run in June to see if western coal could be transported and loaded at the Mount Vernon Southwind Maritime Center. The coal originated in Colorado and was transported there by a 105-car train by Union Pacific, transferring to CSX at St. Louis which brought it into the dock. Alliance Resource Partners is attempting to develop a blending facility at the dock.^{20,21} The Clark Maritime Centre at Jeffersonville receives coal which is then loaded on trucks. The possibility of adding a rail hub near one of the ports, most likely Jeffersonville, is being considered.²² The Norfolk Southern Railway purchased 21.9 miles of Indiana track that serviced the Lynnville Mine from Peabody Energy. The track is also used by Black Beauty Coal's Somerville Mine.²³ The Lynnville Mine is inactive, but could restart if business were to warrant it.²⁴

The Western Coal Council became the American Coal Council to better represent the needs of utility-coal business interests nationwide.²⁵ The Coal Preparation Society of America was recently established to improve communication in the industry.²⁶

The National Coal Council released the results of a study titled *Increasing Coal-Fired Generation through 2010* detailing means by which coal use can be encouraged.²⁷ A look at some of the challenges coal use faces was also discussed in a Coal Age article.²⁸

The Coal Town historical museum reopened in Clinton, Ind. The museum features the Clinton area's coal history and had been closed for two years of restoration and renovation.^{29,30}

Indianapolis Power & Light (IPL) has had financial problems since it was acquired by AES.³¹ Speculation is that it may eventually be sold.³² However, AES says that it has no intention of

selling the company.³³ Lawsuits were filed on behalf of IPL stockholders stating that they had been misled by AES concerning that company's stability prior to the acquisition.^{34,35,36} The company had record electricity consumption on July 22 due to the weather.³⁷

Construction industry developments

The U.S. Senate passed legislation restoring \$8.6 billion for transportation projects that had been cut in earlier versions of the bill. The legislation includes a total of \$31.8 billion for the federal highway program, the same amount that had been budgeted for fiscal year 2002. The House bill is expected to set the amount for the program at \$27.7 billion.^{38,39,40}

The Maximum Economic Growth for America through the Highway Trust Fund, or MEGA Trust Act was introduced in the Senate to ensure better funding for the Highway Trust Fund.^{41,42,43} Other legislation under consideration is S. 2906, the Rural Four-Lane Highway Safety and Development Act of 2002 that will seek to provide \$1.8 billion over six years to allow states to upgrade some two-lane highways into four-lane highways.^{44,45} The U.S. General Accounting Office released a report on the interstate system and found that, overall, conditions show much improvement over the last decade, but that capacity is not keeping up with demands placed on it by increasing amounts of traffic.⁴⁶

The House approved a bill, sent to the Senate Commerce Committee, that would ensure that proposed airport construction projects would have concurrent environmental reviews, when possible, to expedite the process and that reviews would occur within U.S. Department of Transportation time frames.⁴⁷

A draft of the environmental impact statement for the five routes proposed for the I-69 extension from Indianapolis to Evansville was released. No specific route was listed as a preferred route, but various routes were listed either as preferred or non-preferred based on various criteria. Three public hearings were conducted in August to discuss the findings. Comments will be received until November 7. The report can be viewed at: <http://www.i69indyevn.org>.^{48,49} None of the preferred routes pass the town of Bedford for environmental reasons, and the much-discussed U.S. 41/I-70 route endorsed by many environmental groups did not receive a preferred rating due to not meeting the Indiana Department of Transportation's (INDOT's) transportation goals such as improving congestion problems and travel times as well as increasing safety.⁵⁰ All preferred routes pass through Owen and Greene Counties.⁵¹ The possibility of routes passing near Bloomington and Washington has stirred much local controversy.^{52,53,54,55,56,57,58} There was much discussion at the Evansville hearing.^{59,60} A final route may be decided upon by the end of the year.^{61,62} A 6.5 mi. stretch of the existing I-69 in Allen County will be reconstructed with improvements and the addition of a third lane in each direction.⁶³

Indiana and Kentucky announced their decision to build two bridges across the Ohio River. One is planned for the Jeffersonville, Ind. - Louisville, Ky. district and would carry six lanes of traffic. The other is planned to the east of that bridge to connect I-265 and the Snyder Freeway in Kentucky. The project is the largest that the two states have jointly conducted and will cost an

estimated \$1.4 billion.^{64,65} Louisville's Courier Journal newspaper ran a special section detailing local reaction and how the plans would affect neighborhoods.⁶⁶ Federal Highway Administration approval is expected to be received.⁶⁷

INDOT approved a new road to be called Hamilton Boulevard to connect S.R. 37 to Meridian Road in Mitchell. The town will receive \$3.2 million for the project, but must also provide part of the funding. The construction project will provide direct highway access for Lehigh Portland Cement Co., removing several hundred trucks daily from residential areas, and also will provide highway access for the town's industrial park.⁶⁸ A 12,000 sq. ft. strip mall is planned for part of the old Carpenter school bus factory property along S.R. 37 at Mitchell also. New roads will also be constructed for it.^{69,70}

Notable highway contracts awarded by INDOT during the quarter include \$6.4 million for road replacement on Hillegas Rd. in Allen County, \$14.4 million for improvements to the I-90 toll road in Lake County, \$7.6 million for new road and bridge construction for the Veterans Parkway connecting Clarksville and Jeffersonville, \$10.7 million for added travel lanes and other improvements to S.R. 19 in Elkhart County, and \$21.8 million for added travel lanes and other improvements to I-65 in Clark County.^{71,72,73}

The Federal Highway Administration has awarded INDOT, Tippecanoe County, and Purdue University a \$475,000 discretionary award to build a bridge in Tippecanoe County using Fiber Reinforced Polymer (FRP). The FRP technology, which has been mostly used in the aerospace and automotive industry, has recently been used in other locations around the country to strengthen bridges.⁷⁴

Cutbacks in state funding will result in a cut in the Monroe County highway department budget from \$4.46 million in 2002 to \$4.36 million in 2003.⁷⁵ Hendricks County is creating a loan fund to help finance needed road construction projects.⁷⁶ Shelby County will receive \$250,844 next year in gasoline-tax receipts for highway department projects due to the 3-cent per gallon tax increase recently passed by the state legislature.⁷⁷

The Metropolitan Department of the city of Indianapolis is conducting nine public meetings in each of the city's townships to discuss future land use.⁷⁸ A public meeting was also held in the city to discuss \$8 million in improvements to be made to 1.9 mi. of road on the south side.⁷⁹ The Indianapolis Museum of Art is planning a \$74 million renovation.⁸⁰ Carmel is planning a 520,000 sq. ft. \$90 million retail complex with an open-air, village-style concept that will be named Clay Terrace. Rangeline road will be extended as a 4-lane boulevard to service the development. The retail complex, featuring high-end retailers is expected to be open by 2004.⁸¹ The city is also planning a park that should be open to the public in 2005 at a cost of \$53 million.

New Albany is considering the construction of a new recreation and housing complex to consist of a YMCA, a public plaza and two condominium buildings.⁸² The state continues to seek federal funding for the \$54 million Ohio River Greenway project, a parks and recreation area along the Ohio River connecting New Albany, Clarksville, and Jeffersonville. It has received

some federal money for the project.⁸³ The Floyd County board of commissioners held a public hearing to discuss a possible ordinance designed to tighten environmental requirements for subdivision construction.⁸⁴

The city of Bloomington has about \$50 million in road construction projects planned between 2002 and 2005.⁸⁵ Indiana University trustees approved the building of a \$50 million multidisciplinary science building on the Bloomington campus.^{86,87,88} Purdue University broke ground for a \$7 million, 31,000 sq. ft. entrepreneurial center.⁸⁹

Twenty-four Indiana projects were awarded a total of \$623,000 in matching fund grants awarded by the State Historic Preservation Review Board.⁹⁰

The 100-year old Greene County courthouse is being expanded and renovated at a cost of \$10.5 million.⁹¹

Environmental and regulatory issues

Both versions of the national energy bill that was passed are now in a House-Senate conference committee. Both versions of the bill include several billion dollars for U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) clean coal technology projects and other research on coal, oil, and natural gas over a ten year period. More lenient greenhouse gas reporting measures are also included.⁹² Air quality in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Region 5 which includes Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin, may improve dramatically under the President's Clear Skies Initiative.^{93,94} A study indicates that 62% of sulfur emissions, 74% of nitrogen oxide emissions, and 63% of mercury emissions may be cut from current levels. Legislation was sent to Congress to implement the Clear Skies Initiative.⁹⁵ The EPA sent a plan to the President that includes improvements to the voluntary greenhouse gas reporting program. The improvements would include a better accounting system, independent verification of reports, a wider variety of credits as well as providing transferrable credits for reductions.⁹⁶ The President's Clean Coal Power Initiative has resulted in the receipt by the DOE of 36 project proposals valued at more than \$5 billion.⁹⁷ One project is a plan to install a Clean Combustion System on Unit 6 at the IPL Harding Street plant.⁹⁸ Indiana has had many air pollution violations this summer, the worst year since 1988. The Indianapolis area plans to avoid the possibility of federal intervention by adopting its own regional pollution-reduction plan. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) is already requiring the reduction of nitrous oxide emissions by May 31, 2004.^{99,100}

Clean Air Act of 1977 rules will be eased somewhat to allow companies to make more changes to their plants without the need to install new air pollution control equipment.^{101,102} Some environmentalists are upset about this plan.¹⁰³

PSI Energy intends to spend about \$500 million in equipment to handle nitrous oxide emissions. The company received approval to increase rates, by an average of 1% per customer, to recover clean air expenditures of about \$180 million.^{104,105,106} PSI Energy's Wabash plant in West Terre

Haute will participate in another DOE project. FuelCell Energy Inc. of Danbury, Conn. will install the world's first fuel cell linked to a coal gasification-combined cycle power plant. The fuel cell will use the syngas that will be produced from burning coal. The cost of the project will be \$32.3 million, half of which is provided by the DOE.¹⁰⁷ For two years, since the last project ended, the plant has been using petcoke instead of coal as fuel to keep plant operation costs down.¹⁰⁸

The EPA will regulate cement kiln dust as a non-hazardous waste. The requirement will affect handling, transportation and disposal of the material.¹⁰⁹ Ten of the world's largest cement companies with international operations have published an Agenda for Action on Sustainable Development designed to improve the effects of their industry on the environment. Two of the companies have operations in Indiana: Italcementi, based in Italy, (Essroc Cement Corp.) and HeidelbergCement, based in Germany, (Lehigh Portland Cement Co.).¹¹⁰

H.R. 4840, Sound Science for Endangered Species Act Planning Act of 2002 was discussed in committee.¹¹¹ It made its way out of committee and into the House of Representatives.^{112,113}

The National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association was allowed a chance to have input on wording for aspects of the Anti-terrorism Explosives Act of 2002 that would affect mining practices.^{114,115} This legislation is under consideration in both houses of Congress (S. 1956 and H.R. 4864); each bill makes some concessions for mining.¹¹⁶ The bills contain requirements such as extensive background checks and federally-issued licenses.¹¹⁷

An executive order was signed by President Bush that will streamline environmental reviews for transportation projects.^{118,119,120}

The tenth Governor's Conference on the Environment was held on September 27.¹²¹ The Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence were presented to several government and/or company projects. One involved a joint project between INDOT, Southern Indiana Solid Waste Management Districts, and Purdue University to use crushed glass in road transportation construction projects. Another project between Lilly Tippecanoe Laboratories and Purdue University found a way to use coal ash to create a synthetic soil that they call Soilmaker.^{122,123} The controversy over the environmental safety of landfilled coal ash continued. Elevated levels of boron exist in tap water of residents living near an unlined coal ash landfill, but there is no direct evidence to implicate the landfill. About eight coal ash landfills exist in the state.¹²⁴ Some of the environmental concerns regarding coal ash were discussed in a Courier-Journal special section.¹²⁵ Purdue University was also selected as one of eight new EPA Agency Environmental Management Systems to be known as EMS Local Resource Centers, regional centers to help local companies become more environmentally friendly.¹²⁶

The Office of Surface Mining (OSM) presented several awards recognizing the Silver Anniversary Excellence in Surface Mining Awards. The Gold Award for all surface reclamation projects over the past 25 years since passage of the Surface Mining Reclamation and Control Act was presented to Solar Sources, Inc., Sky Point Mine.¹²⁷ The agency celebrated its 25th

anniversary on August 1.¹²⁸

OSM has instituted the ability to pay coal reclamation fees over the internet, starting with the July payment.¹²⁹ OSM's annual report for 2001 was released.¹³⁰ The agency also is accepting comments through October 15 concerning proposed rulemaking regarding bonding issues to handle long-term acid mine drainage problems.¹³¹ OSM placed a technical paper regarding protection of water resources on its website.¹³²

The U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration's (MSHA's) HazCom Rule was published in the Federal Register.¹³³ Informational meetings were scheduled at 15 sites nationwide.¹³⁴ A discussion of the new regulation appeared in AggMan Online and Pit & Quarry.^{135,136} MSHA is offering interactive compliance training for the regulation on its website.¹³⁷ For mines with five or more employees the rule went into effect September 23.¹³⁸ MSHA and industry groups reached an interim agreement whereby producers will create and implement good-faith compliance strategies to satisfy new diesel particulate matter (DPM) regulation.^{139,140,141} A report was released stating that 8,500 deaths per year can be attributed to the effects of DPM. The EPA along with the Office of Management and Budget may seek to increase efforts to further regulate DPM.^{142,143,144} MSHA is placing more emphasis on providing compliance assistance resources.¹⁴⁵ Due to nine drowning deaths from swimming in active and abandoned pits and quarries nationwide, including one in Indiana, MSHA reissued warnings about the dangers involved.¹⁴⁶ The agency also learned that part of its blasting regulations are no longer valid due to problems with the wording of the law.¹⁴⁷

Funds that were cut from the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) Minerals Information program in early fiscal year 2003 Interior appropriations bills were restored.¹⁴⁸ The USGS Mineral Resources Program is undergoing a review by the National Research Council.¹⁴⁹

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration will reorganize and add a new Office of Small Business.¹⁵⁰ It is also working to streamline some of its operations.¹⁵¹

The EPA may lighten the regulatory burden on companies participating in their National Environmental Performance Track Program where companies are required to meet certain environmental requirements.¹⁵² The agency is also working to establish a National Environmental Information Exchange Network. IDEM received a \$338,944 grant from the EPA to organize its internal data to prepare it for entry into the system.¹⁵³

An article about underground coal mine safety in Indiana, which discussed the Coal Mine Information System and which is being compiled through a cooperative agreement between the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Reclamation and the Indiana Geological Survey, appeared in the Herald-Times following the Pennsylvania Quecreek Mine incident.^{154,155} Two other articles discussed underground mining in Indiana and also mine rescue teams.^{156,157}

Martin Marietta Aggregates' request for a zoning variance and to move its processing plant in Indianapolis in the Carmel area was denied.¹⁵⁸ Due to this request a law may be passed

regulating mining within the city of Indianapolis. The law would require a Mined-Land Use Plan from the company, more closely regulate blasting, and would not allow new asphalt or concrete plants north of 96th Street in Carmel.¹⁵⁹ The mine wants to expand its operations north of 106th St. which would bring it into closer proximity to a housing subdivision.¹⁶⁰ Martin Marietta Aggregates is appealing the decision.¹⁶¹

Purdy Materials, a sand and gravel company, is trying to purchase 182 acres from Purdue University. However, the company is facing problems because they need to cut down 40 trees at a nearby park to provide a safe entry to the mine site and some residents of the area are upset. Purdue has offered to plant trees elsewhere in the park.¹⁶²

A state panel discussed wetlands issues this summer in advance of an expected Indiana Supreme Court ruling in November on how strictly IDEM should regulate them.¹⁶³

Metals

Bowing to industry pressures, where steel-consuming companies complained of higher prices and the unavailability of certain types of specialty steel, more than 178 types of imported steel products were excluded in August from the tariffs that had been imposed earlier this year. This means that about one-fourth of the steel imports which had been excluded will now be allowed back into the country under normal rules. This decision brought much dissension from American steel-producing companies.^{164,165,166,167} The European Union and Japan continue to fight the rest of the protective import tariffs.¹⁶⁸ Requests by the steel industry to impose new tariffs on cold-rolls steel imports were denied by the International Trade Commission causing more upset for U.S. steel-producing companies.^{169,170,171}

An agreement important for NAFTA was reached on structural standards for cold-formed steel.¹⁷²

Nucor Corp. successfully opened its experimental Castrip “micromill” which produces steel 0.05 inch thick through a combination of hot and cold rolling, a process not used by other mills. The process was developed by BHP Steel, an Australian mining company. Nucor and BHP Steel each own 47.5 percent of the facility, the rest (5 percent) is owned by Ishikawajima-Harima Heavy Industries which produces steel-making equipment.¹⁷³

Steel Dynamics was allowed to proceed with plans to purchase the Qualitech steel mill. Steel Dynamics plans to change the product line at the purchased mill.^{174,175} The deal closed in early September for \$45 million. The company plans to spend from \$60 to \$70 million to prepare the mill for operation.^{176,177}

Bethlehem Steel Corp. is continuing with restructuring plans.¹⁷⁸ An improved market for steel should help the company.¹⁷⁹ The company reported improved second quarter earnings as did U.S. Steel Corp. and Ispat Inland.^{180,181,182,183}

Financial problems of Indiana cities such as reduced funding to make repairs to sidewalks and

roads due to loss of property taxes paid by steel companies now in bankruptcy, were discussed in a Wall Street Journal article.¹⁸⁴

The EPA may lose funding for the cleanup of superfund sites as the administration attempts to shift fiscal responsibility for the cleanup from the special fund which is no longer receiving income from a special tax, that has expired, on chemical and petroleum companies to taxpayers. This would affect the Continental Steel Corp. site in Kokomo.¹⁸⁵

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Indiana Mineral Industry News

Fourth Quarter 2002

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Indiana Geological Survey

Production

Indiana coal production through the week that ended December 21, 2002 was 35.5 million short tons, a 2.4 percent decrease from the same period of the previous year according to the U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration (EIA). Indiana ranked seventh nationally as of this time period.¹

According to data published by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) for the third quarter of 2002, the most current data available, Indiana production of crushed stone was 18.7 million mt and Indiana production of construction sand and gravel was 7.6 million mt demonstrating decreases of 0.7 percent and 3.3 percent, respectively, when compared to the same period of 2001.² Nationally there was very little growth in the aggregates industry during 2002, with most major producers experiencing decreases in production from the previous year.³

Industry news

The USGS has completed a coal resource assessment of the Illinois Basin; for more information, a factsheet can be downloaded at <http://energy.cr.usgs.gov/coal/nca/index.htm>.³

Gibson County Coal arrived at a tentative agreement with PSI Energy over coal quality issues regarding hardness of coal supplied by the mine.⁴

AEI Resources, which emerged from bankruptcy in May as Horizon Natural Resources, entered bankruptcy again on November 18.⁵ Kindill Mining, which operates mines in Indiana, is a subsidiary of Horizon Natural Resources.

Five Star Mining opened another mine, near Mt. Olympus, which is expected to produce for 10 years. Coal trucks from the mine are expected to carry up to 180 loads of coal a day.⁶

PSI Energy has requested a rate increase that could reach 19 percent over two years to fund environmental projects and for maintenance projects. The major part of the increase would occur during 2004.^{7,8}

Northern Indiana Gas and Electric Company (NIPSCO) has reached an agreement with the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) on methods for the company to reach Nitrous

Oxide (NO_x) emission standards compliance. The company has already reduced NO_x emissions by 30 percent.⁹

Many plans for new power plants in Indiana have been either withdrawn or put on hold. The proposed Mt. Vernon plant, which was a 265 MW gas plant was withdrawn in December. EnviroPower LLC which had plans for two plants that would burn waste and new coal with installed environmental controls withdrew a petition for the Pike County project early in 2002. The company's Sullivan County project has not progressed since May when the company was working on revisions to a report for the IURC on how the plant would fit into the state's transmission system. It was the only project under consideration by the IURC as of the end of the year.¹⁰

Several Indiana aggregate companies won About Face and Community Relations awards from the National Stone and Sand and Gravel Association (NSSGA). Awards presented to Indiana companies were: a Showplace Award to Sellersburg Stone; Outstanding Achievement awards to the following Martin Marietta Aggregates operations: Belmont Sand and Gravel, Carmel Sand & Gravel, Cloverdale Quarry, Kokomo Sand, North Indianapolis Quarry, and Waverly Sand & Gravel; a First Step Award to Limer's of Indiana, Inc.'s, Tom Miller Quarry; a Gold Community Relations and a Bronze Community Relations award to Martin Marietta Aggregates Carmel operation; and a Bronze Community Relations award to Rogers Group, Inc.'s Bloomington Crushed Stone. The awards will be presented at the NSSGA's Centennial Convention in Orlando, Florida on February 9.^{11,12}

An article appeared in the November issue of Aggregates Manager about how Rogers Group Inc. has improved safety at their operations. The company has reduced injuries by 40 percent since the program was initiated in 2000.¹³

An interesting article explaining why so many international companies are buying up American aggregate companies appeared in the October issue of Aggregates Manager. Aggregate companies in Europe tend to be far more consolidated than are American companies, therefore fewer opportunities for growth exist within their own countries.¹⁴

A general interest article concerning the Indiana dimension limestone industry was picked up by the Associated Press and appeared in area newspapers.^{15,16,17}

After filing bankruptcy in 2001, U.S. Gypsum Corp. continues to experience financial improvement. A federal hearing was held in October to discuss remediation of asbestos complaints against the company.¹⁸

Purdue University will begin a new engineering program in cement technology in association with the Portland Cement Association (PCA).¹⁹ The PCA issued a forecast for construction and the U.S. economy during 2003. The Association expects residential construction to be strong, but levels of nonresidential construction to be low. Construction in the public sector is expected to be unchanged. A moderate growth in GDP is expected.²⁰ A similar forecast appeared in Pit &

Quarry.²¹

The National Mining Association adopted a Sustainable Development Pledge at the fall board meeting.²²

Construction industry developments

The public comment period for the I-69 environmental impact statement ended in November.^{23,24,25} A group of state business leaders and members of the Indiana Department of Commerce had a meeting to discuss ways of keeping I-69 moving forward after a final decision is made on a route.^{26,27} The announcement, which was expected by the end of the year, was postponed.^{28,29} The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommended that the route follow I-70 between Indianapolis and Terre Haute and then U.S. 41 between Terre Haute and Evansville to affect the environment as little as possible and the state said that they would consider the comments. The state also considered a hybrid plan.^{30,31,32,33} It could be 2020 before the entire length of the highway is completed connecting Canada to Mexico.³⁴

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) plans to improve the road between Fulton Avenue and Eickoff Road of the Lloyd Expressway (S.R. 62) in Evansville to freeway standards. The project will cost an estimated \$230 million and will not see completion for several years. However, in the meantime, some improvements will be made to one of the interchanges to improve traffic flow and safety.³⁵ S.R. 39 may be rebuilt at a total cost of \$13.7 million in improvements between Monrovia and Belleville. The work would be done in stages with \$1.7 million planned on the highway for 2003.³⁶

INDOT awarded a number of contracts for highway and bridge repair and improvements during this quarter. Among them, \$30.7 million for a stretch of I-65 (including a bridge) in Lake County, \$6.7 million for road construction on 38th St. in Marion County, \$6.0 million for bridge replacement (design and build) on Georgia St. over I-80/94 near Gary in Lake County, \$4.2 million for improvements to Cowan Rd. in Delaware County, \$4 million for road improvements on S.R. 450 in Lawrence and Martin Counties, and \$3.2 million for a bridge replacement on Olive Rd. over I-90 in St. Joseph County.^{37,38,39}

The Natcher Bridge at Rockport in Spencer County, the longest cable-stayed span along the Ohio River and one of the longest in the nation, was completed and opened. About \$180 million is planned in improvements for U.S. 231 that connects the bridge to I-64.⁴⁰ A decision on where to place two bridges crossing the Ohio River in the Louisville, Ky./Jeffersonville, Ind. area will not be made until next August.⁴¹ A group called the Historic Spans Task Force was formed to advocate for the renovation of historic bridges whenever possible rather than the construction of new ones. A comprehensive plan to preserve as many historic bridges as possible will be formulated and the group will serve as a watchdog over the actions of the Federal Highway Administration in regards to historic bridges.^{42,43} A land developer received permission from the Clark County Plan Commission to proceed with building a subdivision that is in the path of one of the approved sites for a bridge spanning the Ohio River. The Plan Commission was unable to

bar the developer who believes that the bridge will not be built anytime soon and has invested a lot of money already in the development.⁴⁴

An IU School of Medicine information sciences building will be built in Indianapolis. It is planned as an anchor for a future life sciences research community and will be built along the Downtown Canal Walk. The city is donating the land to IU.⁴⁵

Evansville is considering the construction of a \$25 million minor league baseball stadium.⁴⁶

Legislation and regulatory issues

The EPA eased air pollution controls somewhat to allow plants to make changes to their plants without the need to install new air pollution control equipment.^{47,48,49,50,51} The change could affect the settlement of a legal dispute involving renovations made to Cinergy's Gallagher plant in New Albany.⁵² Vectren also had similar fines levied against it for improvements made at its Culley plant.⁵³ A three-day meeting was held in Washington to discuss further research on climate change. The Bush administration would like to conduct research for a period of 10 years before considering tighter regulatory controls.⁵⁴ The EPA and the U.S. Office of Management and Budget continue to work on proposed rules that could reduce emissions from off-road diesel vehicles by as much as 95 percent. The proposed rules are expected to be announced in the spring.^{55,56,57} The EPA released "Acid Rain Program 2001 Progress Report" which showed that SO₂ emissions had decreased by one-third from 1990 to 2001.⁵⁸ Emissions of Greenhouse gases decreased 1.2 percent during 2001 according to the EPA. This is the largest decrease in the 1990 to 2001 time period and is attributed to slow economic growth. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) plans to expand its carbon sequestration research program to create four to ten "regional sequestration partnerships."⁵⁹ The DOE is requesting "Ideas and Statements of Interest" on a proposed National Climate Change Technology initiative that would award research grants to pursue new ways to manage greenhouse gases.⁶⁰

The DOE signed a Memorandum of Understanding with state energy agencies across the nation which created a State Technologies Advancement Collaborative (STAC). STAC will foster jointly-funded cooperative research projects, and should initiate novel ways to deploy the results of that research. It is also expected that there will be less duplication of effort.⁶¹

The EPA is expected to release rules affecting disposal of coal ash in ponds or landfills in 2003 and for rules affecting ash that will be reburied in mines the following year. However, the rules may not be as rigid as originally thought and may even possibly include voluntary guidelines. Since 1989 approximately 4.3 millions tons of ash have been disposed of in Indiana strip mines.⁶²

A group of Senate conferees killed the energy bill for this year with plans to introduce another version in 2003.⁶³

The U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill allowing the continued transfer of funds from the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund to help fund the United Mine Workers of America's

health-care program for retired coal miners. The bill was under consideration in the Senate.⁶⁴ Following input by the mining industry, the anti-terrorism explosives legislation was changed so as not to cause undue hardship on the legitimate use of explosives by the industry.^{65,66}

Federal appropriations legislation was postponed until 2003. In the meantime, Congress passed a Continuing Resolution to keep funding at the present level.⁶⁷ The U.S. Department of Transportation established a web site (<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/reauthorization>) to make information regarding reauthorization of TEA-21 publicly available.⁶⁸

An executive order signed by President Bush designed to streamline environmental reviews for transportation projects is resulting in a Federal Highway Administration announcement that it is requiring all projects to have established time schedules by September 2007 and expects to see sharp cuts in the amount of time required for environmental evaluations.⁶⁹ The ExPDITE bill was also introduced to help speed up inter-agency environmental approval of highway projects.⁷⁰ ExPDITE stands for Expediting Project Delivery to Improve Transportation and the Environment Act (HR 5455).^{71,72}

The Safe Highways and Roads Act of 2002 was introduced in the House. This bill would give authority to the EPA to grandfather certain highway projects in areas that, while in air quality compliance at the outset of the project, fall into nonattainment later. At the present time such projects may lose federal funds. It also would allow state agencies to assume a plan submitted to the EPA to be approved if the agency has not acted on it after a period of 90 days.⁷³

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health updated their web site with new information about silica dust (<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/silica/default.html>).⁷⁴

The EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers released the National Wetlands Mitigation Action Plan. The plan lists methods by which the agencies plan to ensure that there is no net loss of wetlands in the U.S. due to land development activities.⁷⁵

The U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) opened an Office of Small Mines designed to better serve the health and safety needs of smaller operations.⁷⁶ The agency has named Kevin Burns as head of the new office.^{77,78,79} The agency also proposed a rule that would simplify the testing of equipment used for underground mining.^{80,81,82} MSHA issued a compliance guide for meeting the new HazCom standards.^{83,84} The agency dropped a proposal to tighten certain health standards concerning air quality in underground mines. Legal action was filed by the United Mine Workers.⁸⁵ An increase in the number of deaths nationwide in the metal/nonmetal mining industry (which includes all mining other than coal) may result in more safety-related initiatives next year.⁸⁶

INDOT opened the new Madison Subdistrict Complex in November to serve southeastern Indiana. The complex is located on 40 acres of the former Jefferson Proving Grounds.⁸⁷ The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) plans to move its Evansville

subdistrict office into the former INDOT building in Petersburg which will save both agencies, and taxpayers, several thousand dollars and place the agency more centrally in its district sometime next Spring.⁸⁸

A public meeting was scheduled for October 30 to discuss new mining regulations for Indianapolis.⁸⁹ Following Martin Marietta's defeat in its application for permission to mine north of 106th street in Carmel earlier this year, the company filed an appeal in Hamilton Superior Court. The company also filed a request to consider its long-term mining plan in December.⁹⁰

Metals

With improvement in the steel industry, steelmakers have been negotiating price increases with the nation's automakers, the first in seven years.⁹¹ However, former steelworkers from bankrupt steel companies in northern Indiana continue to file for personal bankruptcy at a high rate. Year 2000 filings placed the area at the top of the nation's list and during 2001 the area experienced an increase of 20.1 percent over the previous year.⁹² Although stiff tariffs are still being imposed on certain types of steel imports, the import rate has climbed back up to about 3 million metric tons per month with foreign producers finding prices on the U.S. market worth paying the tariffs. Also, several types of steel products have received exemptions from the tariffs. Overall, by the end of the third quarter, imports had climbed by 8 percent and shipments of domestic steel were down 1.4 percent from the same period in 2001.^{93,94} The year 2002 was expected to be the fourth highest for steel imports in the country's history.^{95,96}

Record quarterly income was reported by Steel Dynamics, Inc. for the third quarter. The Butler flat-roll minimill also set a production record of 607,000 tons during the third quarter. The new Columbia City structural steel and rail mill continued to "ramp-up" production. The Qualitech steel mill which was purchased by Steel Dynamics in September may not reopen until 2004. The company will spend between \$60 to \$70 million on changes to the plant, beginning this summer.^{97,98} The company agreed to an environmental project and to pay a fine of \$50,000 to the EPA for failure to acquire proper air permits before building the new Columbia City mill.⁹⁹

Nucor set several new company records for steel production and shipments during the third quarter. The company continued to grow through acquiring other mills.^{100,101}

Slater Steel Inc., which operates Fort Wayne Specialty Alloys Div. minimill, settled a labor contract that will last until 2005 with the United Steel Workers of America.¹⁰²

International Steel Group Inc. (ISG) and the Steelworkers union have agreed, tentatively, to a six-year contract.¹⁰³ ISG is considering a purchase of Bethlehem Steel.¹⁰⁴ Bethlehem Steel considered its options both as a stand-alone company and as a part of the proposed merger.¹⁰⁵ The union deal worked out by ISG was viewed as a positive step by Bethlehem Steel who found its pension plan terminated by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp.^{106,107} ISG company recently purchased the LTV Steel Corp. and has reopened the plant at East Chicago.¹⁰⁸ The company requested 60 days of exclusive rights to see if a deal could be worked out with Bethlehem Steel

Corp.^{109,110} Steel Technologies, which processes flat-rolled steel for the automotive industry, experienced record sales during their fiscal year ending September 30. Steel Technologies operates a plant at Portage.¹¹¹

Bethlehem Steel Corp. company, as a charter member of the U.S. EPA Climate Leaders Program, announced that between 2000 and 2010 it would try to meet a 12 percent reduction of greenhouse gas.¹¹² The company experienced a \$54 million loss during the third quarter of 2002. The company sold an 8 percent interest in the iron ore mine in Minnesota that supplies the Burns Harbor mill as well as extra iron ore supplies produced by the mine.^{113,114}

Ispat International N.V. experienced improvement in the third quarter of the year, showing a net income of \$26 million. In the third quarter of 2001 the company had experienced a net loss of \$98 million. Ispat Inland experienced net sales of \$577 million, a 23 percent increase in sales over the same period of the previous year and a 10 percent increase in shipments during the quarter as compared to the same time period of the previous year.¹¹⁵

IDEM is drafting new permits for the AK Steel's Rockport Works mill due to environmental problems at the mill.¹¹⁶ The Indiana Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration has approved the plant for participation in its STAR Voluntary Protection Program, which indicates that the plant has an excellent employee safety program that exceeds national standards.¹¹⁷

An improved third quarter with an adjusted net income of \$103 million was reported by U.S. Steel which had reported a net loss of \$17 million during the third quarter of 2001.¹¹⁸ The company will spin off its coke, iron ore, and transportation businesses so that it can better concentrate on steel production. In Indiana, one coke plant in Gary will be affected. A 20 percent interest in the new company will be retained by U.S. Steel.^{119,120,121} U.S. Steel began its part of an effort to clean and restore a portion of the Grand Calumet River and will donate 32 acres along the restored river to the National Park Service. The effort is one of the largest in the nation.¹²²

National Steel, which produces carbon flat-rolled steel, continued to work on a plan to emerge from Chapter 11 bankruptcy that could possibly include a merger with other companies.¹²³ During the third quarter, the company reported a net income of \$3.5 million, but net losses were experienced in October and November. The losses were attributed primarily to maintenance outages and seasonal decreases in sales.^{124,125,126}

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