



# ROCK TALK

KENTUCKY CRUSHED STONE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

- September 2011 -

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## **Deadline for AGC/SIF Safety Requirement is October 31<sup>st</sup>**

The Kentucky AGC/SIF's 2011 Safety & Educational program requires that all policies with an effective date through 12/31/2010 have 1 or more "Company Representatives", **by 10/31/2011**, attend a 2 hour safety seminar offered by one of the Fund's seven Trade Associations or by the Fund's loss control provider, JV Resources, Inc.

To check on possible seminars, go to the AGC/SIF website – [www.kyagcsif.com](http://www.kyagcsif.com) and click on the Safety Link. That will take you to the list of the seven association members and any seminars they have scheduled.

If you have any questions feel free to contact Nicole Ballard at the Fund Office. Nicole can be reached at 502-245-2007, or Toll-Free at 1-800-928-7135.

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## **USGS Releases Second-Quarter Aggregate Production Report**

*Source: NSSGA*

An estimated 535 million metric tons (Mt) of total construction aggregates were produced and shipped for consumption in the United States in the second quarter of 2011, a decrease of 5.5 percent compared to the second quarter of 2010, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The estimated production for consumption in the first six months of 2011 was 857 Mt, a decrease of 4 percent compared to the same period of 2010.

An estimated 311 Mt of crushed stone were produced and shipped for consumption in the United States in the second quarter of 2011, a decrease of 6.5 percent compared to the second quarter of 2010. The estimated production for consumption in the first six months of 2011 was 507 Mt, a decrease of 4 percent compared to the same period of 2010.

The estimated U.S. output of construction sand and gravel produced and shipped for consumption in the second quarter of 2011 was 224 Mt, a decrease of 4.2 percent compared to the second quarter of 2010. The estimated production for consumption in the first six months of 2011 was 350 Mt, a decrease of 4 percent compared to the same period of 2010.

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## Senators Question MSHA

*Source: NSSGA*

Apparently miffed at the lack of a substantive U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration response to many Senate questions about the ways in which MSHA enforces standards, staff members of four U.S. senators are expected to soon meet with MSHA counterparts to demand complete answers to the dozens of questions posed six weeks ago.

Senate staff had begun early this summer questioning MSHA about issues tied to enforcement. The staff's belief that they were not receiving full cooperation resulted in the Aug. 3 [letter](#) to MSHA's Administrator Joe Main. Signers of the letter (attached) were: Sens. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), John Thune (R-S.D.), John Hoeven (R-N.D.) and Mike Johanns (R-Neb.). In the letter, the senators posed nearly four dozen questions about MSHA's work relative to sand and gravel operations. They included such questions as:

- What percentage of MSHA activity is devoted to sand and gravel pits?
- What is the average number of violations issued by individual inspectors....during the past 10 years?
- What has been the percentage increase in contested citations....in the past 10 years?

MSHA's only defense for the non-responsive letter ([attached](#)), dated Aug. 26, was that the agency is committed to outreach to industry. NSSGA had worked with the Senate offices to educate on key operational issues. NSSGA regrets that not all of the input provided was reflected in the Aug. 3 letter. NSSGA staff will continue to work with these senators' offices on this important matter.

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## Mica Given OK To Draft Bigger Reauthorization Bill

*Source: NSSGA*

House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Chairman John Mica (R-Fla.) and Highways & Transit Subcommittee Chairman John "Jimmy" Duncan (R-Tenn.) met with a select group of transportation interests, including NSSGA, Sept. 22, and expressed pleasure that the SAFETEA-LU extension enacted Sept. 16 runs for six months. He stated that there was talk originally of extending the program only until the end of the year, but in the current economic climate you could not "keep people hanging." It was essential to give a degree of certainty to the states and businesses.

Second, he said that the larger issue of funding has been resolved. House leadership has told Mica to find the resources for a larger surface transportation reauthorization bill, but one that will not include an increase in the gas user fee.

Mica said that the Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization bill will be brought up in October while simultaneously staff will be working on an approximately \$350 billion, six-year surface transportation bill. This is up from the \$230 billion, six-year bill outlined in July that would have represented a 34% cut from current funding levels. Mica will have to find around \$100 billion in additional resources or, he said, about \$15 billion more annually. He has spoken to House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Dave Camp (R-Mich.) about additional revenues, but has been told he can go beyond Camp if that is what it takes to find more money. Mica said he would like to mark up a bill by the end of the year.

Duncan said he was more optimistic than he had been in a long time about the possibility of passing a multi-year reauthorization bill in this Congress. He stressed the importance of the permit and environmental streamlining provisions included in the outline of the House reauthorization bill.

Mica does not know exactly how the committee will deal with the infrastructure parts of President Obama's jobs plan. Mica is not a fan of a national infrastructure bank, but has endorsed the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act expansion, which is also supported by Senate Environment & Public Works Committee Chairman Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.).

Significantly, Mica contended, "This [reauthorization] is the jobs bill."

Boxer and EPW ranking member Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) continue to work with their committee on developing a two-year bill that maintains level funding with adjustments for inflation. This bill hinges upon a \$12 billion offset being crafted by the Senate Finance Committee.

NSSGA will support Chairmen Mica and Boxer through our grassroots activity to keep the drumbeat going for reauthorization. Our 100-Day Action Plan for Reauthorization will conclude at the end of this month and we are busy developing our action plan for the next six months. Please see the attached letter on the importance of Congressional action on reauthorization that was signed by numerous CEOs of major companies and sent to Congress last week. This kind of joint effort is impactful and exemplifies the kind of activities we need to continue going forward. [[Letter from CEOs.](#)]

NSSGA will keep you informed of developments.

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## **Bluegrass Chapter – Holmes Safety Association**

A group of almost 40 KCSA members and MSHA officials met on September 12, 2011 to discuss the re-activation of the Bluegrass Chapter of the Holmes Safety Association. The group discussed safety initiatives at several operations and ways the group could promote safety at member facilities.

Attendees indicated they would like to proceed with the group and set another meeting date. The next meeting is tentatively set for December 12<sup>th</sup> in Lexington.

The new officers for the group will be:

Mike Wedding, President  
Nugent Sand Company

J.L. Bowen, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Mountain Enterprises

Mason Flinchum, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Vulcan Materials

Tim Lutz, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President  
The Walker Company

For more information, or for a membership application, contact the KCSA office at 502-223-2379, or email [gaye@kycsa.org](mailto:gaye@kycsa.org).

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**SAVE THE DATE**

# **The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Safety Seminar for Underground Stone Mines**

**Fern Valley Hotel and Convention Center • Louisville, KY**

**December 6-7, 2011**

This safety seminar will once again provide an update on issues and research relevant to the health and safety of underground stone miners. Regulatory developments will be included among the topics discussed as well as the impact on the underground aggregates industry.

*Still the only national meeting primarily focused on underground stone mining.*



The meeting begins December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at 4:00 pm with a two hour earlybird workshop.

On December 7<sup>th</sup> the meeting continues, starting at 7:30 am with 10 presentations on a variety of health and safety subjects.

The seminar adjourns at 4:15 pm.

**You will receive a seminar registration brochure by mid-October.  
There is no fee for this seminar but you must register to attend.**

For more information contact Lou Prosser  
phone: 412-386-4423 email: lprosser@cdc.gov



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## Meeting Information

### **2012 KHI Winter Convention**

February 11-18, 2012

Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands

The Westin Casuarina Resort

### **2012 Summer Meeting (Tentative)**

July 19 – 21, 2011

Northern Kentucky

Embassy Suites Cincinnati-RiverCenter

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- Let us know if your company has news to be included in the KCSA newsletter, [info@kycsa.org](mailto:info@kycsa.org).

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