



Press release

Ravena, NY, July 22, 2011

Lafarge North America Inc.

DEC ISSUES PERMITS FOR LAFARGE RAVENA PLANT MODERNIZATION PROJECT

Proposed Project will Improve Environmental Performance, Plant Efficiency
and Help Protect and Create Local Jobs

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has approved Lafarge Cement's ambitious plan to modernize its existing Ravena plant - - a critical step that will allow the company to upgrade its operation, protect and create jobs, and further improve the overall environmental performance of the facility.

The DEC accepted Lafarge's Final Environmental Impact Statement on July 9 and issued the permits on July 19.

"Over the last three years our team has worked together with the DEC and the community to develop a proposal that is beneficial to the community, economy and the environment," said Martin Turecky, Ravena plant manager. "By transforming the Ravena plant into the most advanced cement facility in New York State, we will remain competitive for the long term, protect good paying jobs, and significantly cut plant emissions."

In 2008, the Lafarge Ravena Plant submitted to the DEC a proposal to replace its existing wet process cement kilns with a cleaner, more efficient, single dry process cement kiln.

The new process would result in the installation of new air pollution control technology to reduce specific air emissions and continuous monitoring systems to ensure continuous compliance with stringent emission limits. The dry kiln technology would also bring about a 50% reduction in fuel use per ton of product, produce 40% less solid waste, use less water, and allow for zero waste water discharges, making the new facility even more efficient.

In addition, the modernization project is expected to help protect the 180 existing union and non-union jobs at the plant, and create up to an additional 800 temporary jobs during the construction phase.

As part of the permitting process, Lafarge developed a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) over a period of two-and-half years that utilized DEC approved models and state certified engineers. The DEIS examined more than 20 different environmental aspects to determine the potential impact of the modernization proposal.

"This milestone is a critical step in our pursuit to ensure greater sustainability in the company's operations," said Joe Goss, President of U.S. East Cement Business Unit. "Our desire to modernize the Ravena Cement Plant will allow us to continuously improve our operations while benefiting the local community and economy."

The Ravena Plant Modernization Project received widespread support from the public, advocates, and community and business leaders after undergoing a transparent review process which included a series of modernization community meetings to inform the public and solicit input on the project.

-more-

In addition, the DEC received over 1,000 letters of support for the project from members of the community.

The new facility is scheduled to be completed in 2014 following the formal approval of the project by the Lafarge North America Board of Directors.

The public can view the permit documents at the LafargeRavenaFacts.com website.

Hard copies of the documents are also available at the Coeyman's, Stuyvesant, Chatham, Kinderhook, Schodack, and New Baltimore town halls and the Kinderhook Memorial, North Chatham Free, RCS Community, Chatham Public, and Valatie Free libraries.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Lafarge S.A., together with its subsidiaries (the "Lafarge Group" or the "Group"), is the world leader in building materials, with top-ranking positions in all of its businesses: Cement, Aggregates & Concrete and Gypsum. With 76,000 employees in 78 countries, the Group posted sales of 16.2 billion Euros in 2010. Lafarge North America Inc. and its subsidiaries, including Lafarge Canada Inc., ("Lafarge"), are Lafarge Group companies, and together constitute the largest diversified supplier of construction materials in the United States and Canada.

The Lafarge Group entered the global "Dow Jones Sustainability Index" in 2010 in recognition of its sustainable development actions. The Group places innovation at the heart of its priorities, working for sustainable construction and architectural creativity.

For more information about Lafarge North America, go to www.lafarge-na.com

Contact:
Saleem Cheeks, Eric Mower and Associates (518) 618-1512