



WBCSD releases guidelines for responsible quarrying

Geneva, January 26, 2012 - The World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) today released Guidelines on Quarry Rehabilitation which provides practical guidance for managing the impacts of quarrying activities and ensuring that environments are properly revitalized. Led by the Cement Sustainability Initiative (CSI), the project was carried out by a group of member companies and is based on methods that they have successfully employed.

Philippe Fonta, Managing Director, WBCSD Cement Sustainability Initiative (CSI) and Energy Efficiency in Buildings (EEB), said: "In recognizing their responsibility for effective quarry rehabilitation, our members want to share their practical experience and expertise in order to potentially help other companies involved in similar quarrying or rehabilitation activities. In 2005, all CSI members committed to prepare their rehabilitation plans and make them public before the operation of new cement sites."

The Guidelines reflect the principles of quarry rehabilitation, established by consensus among the CSI members and outlines the conditions and milestones for developing rehabilitation plans. These include defining context and assessing baseline conditions; setting technically and financially sustainable objectives; planning finances; developing and implementing plans; and monitoring, adjustments and post-closure land-use management. This type of planning constitutes a proactive approach to quarry operations and rehabilitation, applicable for both new and existing sites. As such, legal compliance should always be considered as the minimum requirement, and operators should leave sites in a safe and stable condition.

The Guidelines feature 30 operational case studies, covering a wide range of quarry types and local habitats around the world.

The Guidelines also analyze how legislative environment and external stakeholders can be taken on board and henceforth contribute to the successful development and execution of a rehabilitation plan. Continuous communication and open dialogues with stakeholders play a vital role in achieving a mutually beneficial outcome for both stakeholders and operators. CSI solicited, discussed and considered inputs from a wide range of external reviewers during the drafting process.

Mr. Fonta concluded "We firmly believe that the benefits to the natural environment and local communities of progressive and pragmatic quarry rehabilitation outweigh the long-term rehabilitation costs to the cement companies."

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About the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)

The World Business Council for Sustainable Development is a CEO-led organization of forward-thinking companies that galvanizes the global business community to create a sustainable future for business, society and the environment. Together with its members, the council applies its respected thought leadership and effective advocacy to generate constructive solutions and take shared action. Leveraging its strong relationships with stakeholders as the leading advocate for business, the council helps drive debate and policy change in favor of sustainable development solutions.

The WBCSD provides a forum for its 200 member companies - who represent all business sectors, all continents and a combined revenue of more than \$7 trillion - to share best practices on sustainable development issues and to develop innovative tools that change the status quo. The Council also benefits from a network of 60 national and regional business councils and partner organizations, a majority of which are based in developing countries.

www.wbcspd.org

About the Cement Sustainability Initiative (CSI)

The Cement Sustainability Initiative (CSI) is a global effort by 22 leading cement producers, with operations in more than 100 countries. Collectively these companies account for around 30% of the world's cement production and range in size from very large multinationals to smaller local producers. All CSI members have integrated sustainable development into their business strategies and operations, as they seek strong financial performance with an equally strong commitment to social and environmental responsibility. The CSI is an initiative of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD).

www.wbcspdcement.org

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