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**Montana Contractors' Association**



**WEEKLY E-BRIEF**

May 9, 2008

## Gravel again tops this week's news

Articles are appearing in most major newspapers on almost a daily basis as various lawsuits are filed and court decisions are issued, or as County Commissioners rule on zoning decisions.

In some cases, it is portrayed as a horse race between a company receiving a State permit before a County can zone the area and either deny a gravel operation or place additional restrictions on it. (check out recent stories: May 9,2008 [Bozeman Chronicle](#), [Helena IR](#), and [Great Falls Tribune](#) )

As expected, Montana's "big dog" environmental groups have now entered the fray, seeking to intervene in pending cases, and they will undoubtedly file litigation to invalidate the permits that were issued without an environmental assessment.

The groups allege in court, as they will in the 2009 Legislature, that this jeopardizes the constitutional right of every Montanan to a "clean and healthful environment."

In response to the wave of litigation, Gallatin County Commissioners on Wednesday imposed emergency county-wide zoning for the purpose of placing conditional uses on any new

## MCA CALENDAR

### MAY 2008

#### May 14

**MCA Highway Technical Meeting**  
9:30 a.m., MCA office, Helena

#### May 15

**US Army Corps of Engineers Quality Control Class**, 8 a.m.- 5 p.m., MCA office, Helena  
This Class is FULL!

#### May 26

gravel pit. It is still unclear as to how this will affect the companies recently granted permits under court order, or those still in the pipeline. While they have indicated it is not their intention, the commissioners could designate an area to be "residential" and deny new/expanded gravel operations outright.

Bill draft requests from carry-over state senators are already coming into Helena in preparation for the 2009 Legislature, and there is some clamor for a special session to fix the "gap" in permitting that directs DEQ to issue permits after 60 days without an environmental review if applications are deemed "acceptable."

## **MCA gets an editorial comment on public radio**

[\(Click here\)](#) for a copy of Cary Hegreberg's five-minute editorial comment which was broadcast Thursday evening throughout western Montana on KUFM Public Radio.

The MCA is trying to help the public understand:

- a) the need for responsible gravel mining/processing;
- b) the industry's commitment to be good neighbors and to raise the bar on performance.

We will attempt to get a similar editorial piece printed in Montana newspapers.

## **Highway Technical Committee meets May 14, MCA office, Helena**

It's the busy season, but the MCA still holds monthly meetings with MDT specifications staff to discuss critical issues related to construction contracts.

We need involvement from your companies in order to successfully interact with the Department. See you in Helena!

### **FYI from MDOT - Specification Revision Process**

A memo discussing the Standards Committee and the revised Supplemental Specification process (and other contract documents) is on the webpage, [click here for the link](#).

## **THANK YOU SPONSORS for a fun Train Ride!**

The MCA staff and Associates' Division thanks the sponsors of the Charlie Russell Chew Choo for helping make this event successful.

Thank to Tri State Truck & Equipment as the major sponsor and to

**Memorial Day**  
MCA office will be closed

**May 29**  
**MCA Associates Board Meeting,**  
8:15 a.m., Helena,  
MCA office

**May 29**  
**Bid Letting,** 10 a.m.,  
Helena

## **JUNE 2008**

**June 11**  
**Highway Technical Meeting,** 9:30 a.m.,  
Helena, MCA office

**June 13**  
**Board of Directors Meeting,** location  
TBD

**June 18**  
**MPW Meeting,**  
10 a.m., Helena, MCA  
office

**June 26**  
**MCA Associates Board Meeting,**  
8:15 a.m., Helena,  
MCA office

**June 26**  
**Bid Letting,** 10 a.m.,  
Helena

## **JULY 2008**

Century Companies and Cummins Rocky Mountain for sponsoring the children's tickets.

One hundred and fifty people boarded the train at Kingston for a three-hour train ride. They enjoyed a full prime rib dinner, a murder mystery and lots of great company.

We encourage everyone to stop by the MCA office to view all the photos.

## **MEMBERSHIP DRIVE 2008**



Grand Prize is a 50" HD flat screen TV.

How you ask? Any new member applications received between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2008 will qualify.

**To receive credit for the new MCA member**, make sure your name is on the new member application form where it says, "How did you hear about the MCA?"

**For every new member recruited**, you will receive one point and for each point received your name will be entered into the end-of-year drawing for the grand prize.

**The winner** will be drawn at the 2009 Annual Winter Convention, in Helena, Jan. 7-9, 2009.

**For those MCA members who are also a YCF/CLC member**, their name will also be entered into a YCF/CLC quarterly drawing.

**REMEMBER**, your name must be on the new member application form in order to receive a point for the new member.

**Do you need some new member applications**, "Get the Point" brochures, or the pocket size "Membership Benefits" card? Just email Edie, [ehallford@mtagc.org](mailto:ehallford@mtagc.org).

**Good Luck!**

## **MCA Excellence Awards**

Concrete Excellence Award [application form](#)

Building Excellence Award [order form](#)

Environmental Excellence Award [order form](#)

### **July 4**

**Independence Day**  
MCA office will be closed

### **July 9**

**Highway Technical Meeting**, 9:30 a.m., Helena, MCA office

### **July 16**

**Concrete Field Testing Technician Grade I Training**, Missoula, [Registration](#)

### **July 17-18**

**Concrete Field Testing Technician Grade I Certification**, Missoula, [Registration](#)

### **July 31**

**MCA Associates Board Meeting**, 8:15 a.m., Helena, MCA office

### **July 31**

**Bid Letting**, 10 a.m., Helena

## **AUGUST 2008**

### **Aug. 13,14 & 15**

**MCA Summer Outing**  
Fairmont Hot Springs

**AGC**  
**CALENDAR**

Highway Excellence Award [order form](#)

## **AGC Upcoming Audio Conference Calls**

### **Introducing ConsensusDOCS 300: The Industry's First Tri-Party Standard Contract**

May 15, 2008, Noon - 1:30 p.m. MDT

[for more information](#)  
and [Registration](#)

## **AGC Webinar**

### **Life Cycle Analysis: Cradle to Grave**

Brought to you from AGC of America & The Green Building Initiative, May 20, 2008, Noon - 1:30 p.m. MDT  
for more information and [Registration](#)

## **Mind Binder**

According to a recent survey, what's the Number 1 "Comfort Food" for Women?

[Answer](#)

## **MAY 2008**

**May 13-14, 2008**

**AGC-Corps of Engineers Annual meeting**, Double Tree Hotel, 1616 Dodge Street, Omaha, Nebraska, [Registration](#)

**Tuesday, May 13**

**AGC meeting**, 3 p.m., 5:30 p.m. Social for all AGC Members and COE participants. Hors d'oeuvres will be served.

**Wednesday, May**

**14 Joint AGC-COE meeting**, 8 a.m. (7:30 a.m. continental breakfast, 11:30 a.m. joint luncheon)

To register for meeting, [hanson@agcnd.org](mailto:hanson@agcnd.org)

Hotel reservations  
**Double Tree Hotel** (phone: 402-346-7600)

**May 20-21**

**Transportation Construction Coalition Fly-In**, Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill, D.C.

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