

APRIL MEETING

ST. LOUIS SECTION OF SME

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Dr. Catherine Johnson
Dept. of Mining Engineering
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FIELD TRIP- BUZZI UNICEM FESTUS

Our April meeting will be a tour of the mining and plant operations at Buzzi Unicem - Festus MO on Friday, April 29th.

Tour times will be 10:00 am and 11:00am. The plant can accommodate groups up to 12 to 15 per tour; There will be a short site specific training prior to visiting the quarry. Buzzi will provide lunch after the tours.

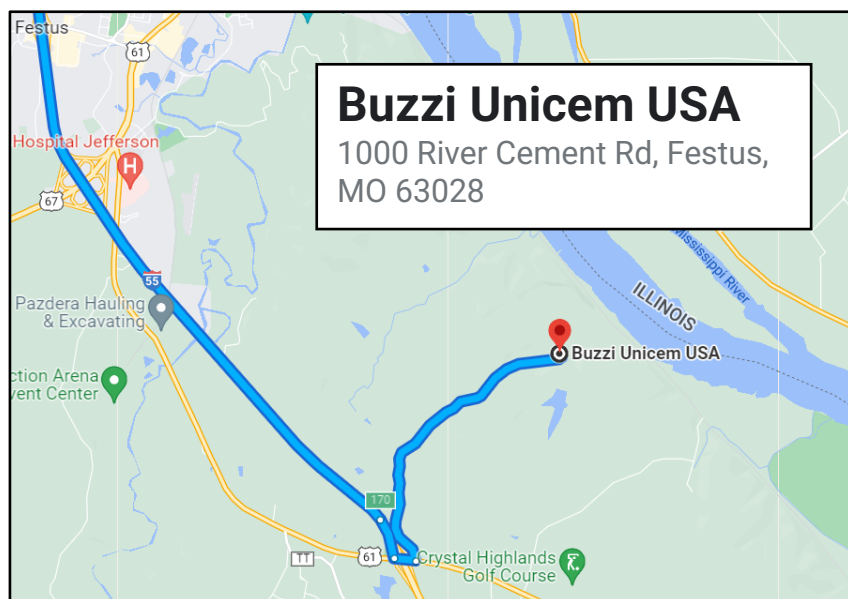
Please bring your own PPE-steel toed boots, long pants, safety glasses, and hard hat and safety vest; Buzzi can provide hard hats, vests and glasses if needed.

RSVP: By Tuesday April 26th and please state your preference for tour time.

By email: bob.johnston@earthlink.net or sme.stl.section@gmail.com.
or

By phone: Bob Johnston 314-570-0226

You need not be a member of National SME.



Buzzi Cement Festus Plant Info

The history of River Cement starts with mining. Around 1800, a duelist, John Smith T. (the T stood for Tennessee, where he originated) bought 4,500 acres in this area, originally called Selma, for mining lead and manufacturing guns.

In 1953, Mississippi River Fuel Corporation purchased the 4,500 acres. William Marbury was president at the time. Under William Marbury, the company diversified- an ammonium nitrate plant was built in 1954 on 1,000 acres of the original 4,500 acres and a cement plant was constructed in 1963.

The cement plant, then known as River Cement Company, took advantage of the vast reserves of Kimmswick and Plattin limestone that follows the banks of the Mississippi River. These formations of limestone have been referred as the “White Cliffs of Selma” in writings of Mark Twain.

River Cement Company started operation in 1965 with one long dry kiln. Strategically placed on the Mississippi River, cement was shipped to five distribution terminals from St. Louis to Texas. A second kiln line was added in 1968 for a total annual cement capacity of 1.4 million tons. In 1978, the cement plant was sold to Buzzi Unicem USA.

In 2001, approximately 1,000 acres of property was acquired by the cement plant to provide substantial limestone reserves. In 2005, construction of the new pre-heater pre-calciner kiln initiated. In July 2009, the new pre-heater pre-calciner kiln was brought online and the original long dry kilns were permanently shut down.

The new line has capacity of producing 2.5 mtpy clinker capacity and 2.7mtpy cement capacity.

The plant serves markets throughout the Midwest (Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Missouri, Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, Ohio, Iowa, Wisconsin and Michigan). Shipping occurs via the river (80%), rail (15%) and truck shipments.
