

Developing a New Market for Coal Ash: Residential Concrete

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ABSTRACT

According to data available from the American Coal Ash Association, the production of fly ash and bottom ash increased over 2% from 2001 to 2005 while utilization increased from 31.9% to 41.3%. The substantial increase in utilization can be attributed to a variety of factors, one of which is innovation on the part of utilities and ash marketers to identify new beneficial use opportunities and develop processing strategies that ensure quality control of the ash to meet market specification. One example of this innovation is the collaborative efforts of Charah, Inc.®, AmerenUE, The Home Depot®, and QUICKCRETE® to market pre-packaged concrete mix to residential consumers.

A facility was constructed at Ameren's Labadie Power Plant to produce pre-packaged concrete mix in recyclable two-handled plastic bags, which are distributed to Home Depot stores in the St. Louis metropolitan area for sale under the QUICKCRETE® brand name. The concrete mix currently utilizes approximately 60,000 tons of the Class C fly ash and bottom ash generated at Labadie. Charah operates a similar packaging facility in Virginia which produces a variety of pre-packaged concrete products from Class F combustion ash.

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