



Minnesota Department of Transportation

Memo

Office of Materials

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TO: File: Research on RAP Activation and Blending

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DATE: 4 November, 2009

SUBJECT: Blending of RAP with Virgin Aggregates (No add AC)

Introduction:

This memo describes the RAP mixing experiment which consisted of blending different proportions of RAP with virgin aggregate at different temperatures and no additional liquid AC.

The experiment took place the morning of Wednesday, November 4, 2009 at the Crane Creek Asphalt (A division of Mathy Construction) Plant No. 84 shown in Figure 1 and located at 680 NW 24th St in Faribault Mn. This three tier batch mix plant is equipped with 6 virgin aggregate belt feed bins and 1 RAP belt feed bin. The mixing unit is a twin pugmill type with $\leq 3/4$ " clearance from the walls and timer controls for wet and dry mixing.



Figure 1. Crane Creek Asphalt Plant No. 84, Faribault, Mn.

The RAP was sampled from millings obtained from TH 60 and blended with four types of virgin aggregates as shown in Table 1.

Table 1. RAP and Virgin Aggregate Properties

Pit	Source of Material	TOTAL Sp. G	Minus #4	
			% Passing	Sp. G
66110	NELSON ¾" ROCK	2.712	3	2.712
19123	CASTLE ROCK ½" X #4	2.675	3	2.675
19123	CASTLE ROCK MAN SAND	2.627	25	2.627
66110	NELSON NAT SAND	2.612	23	2.612
	TH 60 MILLINGS	2.663	18	2.663

The virgin aggregate and RAP were blended in a single batch as shown in **Error! Reference source not found.** Various plant temperatures, measured at the point of discharge and RAP contents that were used are shown in Table 2. Note that temperature was also measured at the point of sampling.



Figure 2. Batch Size

Table 2. Blending Iterations

Run No.	Plant Temp (°F)	RAP Content (%)	Dwell Time (Sec.)	Sample Temp. (°F)
1	420	10	30	320 (Front) - 344 (Back)
2	490	24	30	290 – 300
3 (1 st 1/2)	400	24	30	230 (Front)
3.5 (2 nd 1/2)	375	24	30	225 (Back)



Figure 3. Iteration (Run) No 1.



Figure 4. Iteration (Run) No 2.



Figure 5. Iteration (Run) No 3.

Samples:

- 3, 5 gal. steel pails of each iteration (run no.)
- 2, 5 gal pails of virgin aggregate material (Castle Rock + Nelson Sand)
- 1, 5 gal pail of Nelson ¾" Rock

- 2, 5 gal pails of RAP material (TH 60 Millings)
- 2, sealed plastic bags of RAP material (TH 60 Millings)
- 1 sealed plastic bag of crushed millings (Not used in the mixing experiment)



Figure 6. From LT to RT Iteration (Run) 3, 2 and 1.

Observations:

- Recycled binder clumped around fines and formed ‘balls’
- RAP binder appeared to activate in all iterations
- Higher concentrations of RAP yielded noticeably more binder activation
- Higher temperatures yielded greater activation (blending) of the recycled binder

