

News Release



ARIZONA DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
1110 West Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007
Contact: Mark Shaffer, 602-771-2215
www.azdeq.gov

ARIZONA ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE
1275 West Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007
Contact: Molly Edwards, 602-542-8019
www.azag.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Southwest Rock Products and Subsidiaries to Pay \$93,526 for Air Quality Violations in Five Arizona Counties from 2006 until 2009

PHOENIX (Oct. 13, 2010) – The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and Arizona Attorney General's Office announced today that Southwest Rock Products (SWRP) of Gilbert and its subsidiaries will pay \$93,526 in a settlement with ADEQ for air quality violations in Apache, Cochise, Maricopa, Mohave and Navajo counties from 2006 until 2009.

SWRP and the subsidiaries, White Mountain Rock Products and White Mountain Ready Mix, also will be required to pay an additional penalty of \$65,000 if they operate more than half of any of their facilities without a valid ADEQ air quality permit. SWRP and its subsidiaries own and operate 12 portable facilities throughout the state, including nine rock crushing/screening plants and three concrete batch plants.

ADEQ responded to 14 citizen complaints of excessive dust emissions from plants owned and operated by SWRP. Inspectors verified that those elevated emissions were because of improper operation of emissions control devices. The inspections also revealed that SWRP had been operating several facilities without a valid air quality permit or authorization to operate.

ADEQ issued SWRP nine notices of violation after the inspections. SWRP worked cooperatively with ADEQ to resolve their violations and returned to compliance in September 2009.

Several of the violations occurred in Maricopa County, which the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has designated as a non-attainment area for PM-10. PM-10 can be emitted during the operation of crushing and screening equipment and can cause respiratory problems, particularly in the young and old.

"Clean air is a priority and actions like this underscore the importance of collaborating and complying with environmental laws to reduce dust pollution," said ADEQ Director Benjamin H. Grumbles.

"Air quality in metro Phoenix is a significant health issue, and any company with multiple violations needs to be held strictly accountable," Attorney General Terry Goddard said.

The consent judgment is subject to court approval.

###