

# News Release



ARIZONA DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
1110 West Washington Street  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007  
**Contact:** Mark Shaffer, (602) 771-2215  
[www.azdeq.gov](http://www.azdeq.gov)

ARIZONA ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE  
1275 West Washington Street  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007  
**Contact:** Amy Rezzonico, (602) 542-8019  
[www.azag.gov](http://www.azag.gov)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

---

## **Cross Spear Marble, Inc. to Pay \$80,000 Penalty to Resolve Air Quality Violations at its Cochise County Facility**

PHOENIX (April 4, 2011) – The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and Arizona Attorney General's Office announced today that Cross Spear Marble, Inc. has agreed to pay an \$80,000 penalty to settle air quality violations at its limestone mining, crushing and screening facility near Chiricahua National Monument in Cochise County.

The Chiricahua monument was designated by Congress a Class 1 Airshed, which means that it receives the highest degree of protection from polluting sources. It is one of eight such areas designated in the state. Cross Spear is a decorative rock and mining company headquartered in Phoenix, with an office in Willcox.

Cross Spear was cited for several serious violations including release of excess emissions and failure to install and maintain emission control devices. Between February 2009 and October 2009, ADEQ inspectors observed that Cross Spear was not operating its baghouse and other particulate emissions controls properly or that the devices were not in place. The missing and malfunctioning equipment resulted in excess emissions of limestone dust, which were visible from as far away as 30 miles.

In September 2009, ADEQ issued an abatement order that required Cross Spear to repair or install emission controls for particulates. Cross Spear made swift progress in controlling excess emissions from all three on-site plants, returning to compliance in June 2010. Cross Spear spent more than \$150,000 to repair or install particulate control systems and to hire an engineering firm to assist with the repairs and troubleshooting of the emissions control equipment.

Cross Spear has also instituted environmental training, and an operation and maintenance plan, which has already begun to prevent or minimize the frequency and duration of excess emissions during high wind events.

"These are serious violations that degraded air quality in this important area to our State," said ADEQ Director Henry Darwin. "But the company has resolved the violations and we hope this settlement is a new beginning."

"Mining companies need to rigorously comply with state standards to protect the health of our citizens and our environment," Attorney General Tom Horne said. The consent judgment is subject to court approval.

###