

Geological Society of London Engineering Group

APPLIED PETROGRAPHY GROUP: 11th MEETING SUMMARY

1. The eleventh meeting of the APG was held on 21 September 2009 in London.
2. APG representatives on the two British Standards Institution committees for Aggregates (B/502) and Concrete (B/517) reported that BS EN 12620 (Aggregates for concrete) was about to be published and contained a section on recycled aggregates. The committee's discussions were ongoing concerning the designation and classification of 'dangerous substances' for construction products. It appears that heavy metals and sulphate are the principal concern, but test methods and concentration levels had yet to be agreed. It was hoped that a pragmatic approach, relating the release of dangerous materials to air or to ground water only, would be adopted. It was appreciated that many groups of materials could be exempted from testing, but that recycled materials and ashes were special cases.
3. BSI Aggregates Committee (B/502) in discussion concerning Alkali-aggregate reaction in concrete confirmed that no European consensus had been reached and for the present National Guidelines for AAR should be used. Similarly, there was no consensus concerning a definitive Europe-wide test method for determining the alkali content of cements or concretes. European Standards Committees had shown little interest in adopting the RILEM methods.
4. The glossaries for both the concrete and aggregate terms have been further edited and condensed. Drafts were presented to members at the meeting. It was agreed that both glossaries should be finally edited and circulated to members prior to being placed on the Web-Site as Drafts for Comment.
5. Members agreed the Group should continue to offer further invitations of APG membership on a no fees basis to any additional petrographers from Europe who could be identified and were interested in joining.
6. It was reported that a Concrete Society working group had now completed a final draft of the non-specialists 'Guide to Concrete Petrography' and that it was hoped that it would go to press in January 2010.
7. Dr. Laugesen reported that a similar specialist group to the APG has been meeting in Denmark for some years and had begun in a similar way to the APG. It has since developed to hold each meeting a different member's venue with several specialist presentations being given during the day. This group had been actively working towards improving the standard of the laboratories' work in Denmark by exchanging thin sections and reports between laboratories.
8. A specialist presentation was given in the afternoon by Dr. P. Laugesen, Technical Aspects of Professional Petrography I Denmark and the World. This proved to be an interesting and valuable 'master class' indicating the type of information that can be obtained from a petrographic investigation of concrete. It attracted several additional non- APG members.
9. The next APG meeting will be held in London on 15/02/10, this will also be followed at 2pm by a specialist seminar/workshop presentation This seminar will be open to all interested professionals (details will be posted on the APG Web-Site).

Applied Petrography Group Secretary 28/09/09