

The following is a translation using Google™ Translate. The article has received additional clarification using a fluent Cantonese translator. This is intended to provide a clear understanding of the original content; however, certain nuances may be lost in the translation.

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Daniel Chou
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Lehigh Response: Mercury emissions decrease, and the emissions are within the standards

Lehigh Permanente responded to the pollution issues which were mentioned by Barry Chang, the Cupertino City Council member.

Lehigh stated that, with the current operating conditions, the impact on health is lower than the standard of most informing residents and employees according to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.

In terms of mercury pollution, Lehigh pointed out that the mercury exists naturally in limestone in the mountains of Santa Clara. After two years of researching various technologies to reduce mercury emissions, Lehigh has successfully reduced 25% of mercury emissions every year by installing new equipments. The second phases are currently being implemented, including the installation of active carbon emission (ACI) system, and it will be able to further reduce mercury emissions and reach EPA's standards before 2013.

In terms of nitric acid and sulfur dioxide pollution, Lehigh cited the responding record from Santa Clara County to Barry Chang that according to the BAAQMD, Title V allows cement plant to produce nitric acid emissions up to 5,072 tons and 2,107 tons of sulfur dioxide every year. The BAAQMD pointed out that Lehigh's current annual emissions of nitric acid are 1,235 tons and 420 tons of sulfur dioxide emissions.

Lehigh Permanente stated that in May 28, 2010, they applied "Reclamation plan amendment and conditional use permit" (A Reclamation Plan Amendment and Conditional Use Permit), and they will be able to provide 20 years of cement supply for the Bay Area. The project will fill the existing quarry, and re-establish a safe and reliable excavation landscape. The program will be able to restore the historical appearance of Permanente Creek and improve the local ecology.

Lehigh said that Lehigh Cement Plant has been the provider of cement for the Golden Gate Bridge, San Jose International Airport, Highway 85, 87, 101 and 280, Bay Bridge, Shasta Dam since 1939. Until today, Lehigh is still the major cement provider in the Bay Area, and 70% of the cement used in Santa Clara County is produced by Lehigh. Lehigh's cement also helped repair the McArthur Maze collapse of Highway 880 in 2007.