

PRESS RELEASE

Ambuja Cements Ltd (ACL) Nalagarh Cement Plant inaugurated – 1.5 Million Tonnes Cement Grinding Unit

27 March, 2010, Nalagarh, Himachal Pradesh: A new grinding unit of Ambuja Cements Limited at Nalagarh was inaugurated today by Prof. Prem Kumar Dhumal, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh in the presence of Mr. Hari Narayan Singh, Hon'ble MLA, Nalagarh, Mr. Suresh Neotia, Chairman Emeritus of Ambuja Cements Ltd., senior government officials and other senior Company executives. This is ACL's third plant in Himachal Pradesh; it has a capacity of 1.5 million tonnes. The construction of the plant started in January 2009 and took 15 months to be completed at an investment of about Rs. 300 crores.

Speaking on the occasion, the CEO-designate, **Mr. Onne van der Weijde**, said, "***I expect this unit to augment the process of industrialization of Himachal Pradesh and also contribute significantly to the development of the region by generating revenues for the state and providing direct and indirect employment opportunities for the people.***" He added, "***Our association with the state has a long history and we are committed to continued industrialization and development of Himachal. We hope to partner the state in the years to come in our ongoing quest of fulfilling the incremental cement demand of the country.***"

The grinding unit is located near Nalagarh, on the foothills of Himalayas, close to the Punjab border. This new plant becomes company's 12th plant in its national network and the third in the state of Himachal Pradesh. The unit will use the clinker produced at ACL's Rauri unit, 95 km from the plant. The new plant will use a fully automated production process, thanks to state-of-the-art German technology. Cement produced at the plant will be transported via rail and road. The Nalagarh unit allows easy access to all important markets and regions of Himachal Pradesh and the neighboring states of Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, and Haryana. The plant is expected to meet the increased demand in light of the state government's commitment to infrastructure development.

The cement will be made available in specially designed 50-kg bags that are tamper-proof and seepage-proof. ACL Nalagarh can also supply cement in bulk tankers to large construction projects and concrete product makers and to ready-mixed concrete and batching plants in the region.

The plant is environment-friendly and energy-efficient. The plant will consume fly ash from the thermal power plants in the neighboring states of Punjab and Haryana. It uses state-of-the-art technology in the form of vertical roller mill, which is considered to be the most energy-efficient mode of grinding cement today. The plant meets high standards of pollution control. The plant's emission level will be way below the State Pollution Control Board's limit of 50 mg/Nm³. The project will

achieve sustainable development with several other environment conservation and pollution prevention measures, including treatment and recycling of waste water, rain water harvesting, and monitoring of the ambient air quality at the plant site.

Ambuja Cements Limited

Ambuja Cements Ltd. (ACL) is one of the leading cement manufacturing companies in India. It commenced cement production in 1986. The Company was initially called Gujarat Ambuja Cements Ltd which later became Ambuja Cements Ltd. The global cement major Holcim acquired management control of ACL in 2006. Holcim today holds little over 46% equity in ACL.

ACL has grown manifolds over the past decade. Its current cement capacity is about 23 million tonnes and has plans to augment it to 25 million tonnes by 2010. The Company has 5 integrated cement manufacturing plants and 6 cement grinding units across the country. ACL enjoys a reputation of being one of the most efficient cement manufacturers in the world. ACL has environment protection measures on par with the finest in the country. It is one of the most profitable and innovative cement companies in India. ACL is the first Indian cement manufacturer to build a captive port with three terminals along the country's western coastline to facilitate timely, cost effective and environmentally cleaner shipments of bulk cement to its customers. The Company has its own fleet of ships. ACL has also pioneered the development of the multiple bio-mass co-fired technology for generating greener power in its captive plants. – ENDS-

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