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DIRECTOR OF
HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

P.O. Box 2261
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72203-2261
PHONE (501) 569-2000 • VOICE/TTY 711 • FAX (501) 569-2400
WWW.ARKANSASHIGHWAYS.COM

April 4, 2011

Mr. George Wheatley, Chairman
State Marketing Board of Recyclables
5301 Northshore Drive
North Little Rock, AR 72118-5317

Dear Mr. Wheatley:

Reference is made to your recent letter expressing interest in the use of recyclables for the roadways in Arkansas.

The Department continues to investigate and develop specifications for recycling highway construction materials, waste products from industrial processes, and other waste products with potential for use as a highway construction material.

In support of the Federal Highway Administration's Every Day Counts Initiative which contains a component for the use of Warm Mix Asphalt Technology by State Transportation Agencies, the Department is encouraging the use of warm mix asphalt by asphalt producers who submit bids on highway contracts. To date, 58,722 tons of warm mix asphalt has been placed on six projects. A Special Provision allowing the use of warm mix asphalt has been added to our upcoming overlay projects and to the statewide asphalt concrete hot mix (ACHM) supply contract for maintenance to further encourage asphalt producers to utilize this innovative technology.

In regards to the research project "Warm Mix Asphalt Design and Construction" funded by the Department, it is approximately 60% complete and standard specifications for warm mix asphalt will be developed and implemented upon its completion.

Recycled asphalt shingles (RAS) from manufactured waste are also allowed on Department projects, and to date, 3,981 tons of ACHM has been placed on two projects. A Special Provision allowing the use of manufactured waste RAS has been added to the statewide ACHM supply contract for maintenance operations. A research project "Recycled Asphalt Shingles in Asphalt Pavements" has been funded by the Department and is approximately 25% complete. The primary objective of this project is to evaluate the use of RAS (manufactured waste and tear offs) for asphalt pavements in Arkansas, including the performance of mixes containing RAS, maximum shingle percentage that should be used, and establishing acceptance procedures for the use of RAS.

Mr. George Wheatley
April 4, 2011

Page Two

The project on Interstate 530 referred to in your letter as "glassphalt" was actually a rubberized asphalt project which used rubber in a Stress Absorbing Membrane Interlayer (SAMI) followed by ACHM binder and surface courses utilizing crumb rubber from ground up wasted tires. Field evaluations have been performed on this project and it continues to be monitored.

If you desire to obtain copies of the current Special Provisions for the recyclable technologies or more detailed information on the research projects, you may contact the Department's Material Engineer, Michael Benson, at (501) 569-2186.

Sincerely,



Dan Flowers
Director of Highways
and Transportation

c: Governor Mike Beebe
Highway Commission
Deputy Director and Chief Engineer
Assistant to the Director
Assistant Chief Engineer-Operations
Materials Division