

**KANSAS GEOLOGICAL SURVEY**  
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Industrial Mineral Review for Kansas: 1998

by

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Because of the healthy economy as well as a well-funded highway-construction program, producers of construction-related commodities like sand and gravel, crushed stone, cement, building stone, etc. reported another good year for their businesses. According to U.S.G.S. quarterly figures, the tonnage of crushed stone and sand and gravel sold or used were not as large as 1997. The Kansas Aggregate Producers Association in Topeka believes that once all the final 1998 figures are submitted, total production will be similar to or only slightly less than last year. While demand for sand and gravel remains strong, supplies may be shrinking in the Kansas City area due to: (1) the dredging restrictions in the Kansas River, (2) a limited number of floodplain dredges in the Kansas City area, and (3) the reluctance of some users to use Missouri River sand because of the presence of lignite. Barring a sudden change in the economy, producers expect sales next year to be about the same as 1998.

Sand and gravel dredging on the Kansas River continued to be the most prominent news item in the industrial minerals sector throughout early 1998. At issue was the potential for recreation on the Kansas River and how river dredging might be affected.

Throughout 1997 an interagency committee, the Kansas River Corridor Recreational Committee, addressed the issue of recreational potential. The committee, mandated by the Legislature, was composed of five state agencies (Commerce and Housing, Water Office, Wildlife and Parks, Biological Survey, and Geological Survey). While all of the agencies were in favor of allowing some degree of recreation along the entire river, there were some differences as to whether there should be recreation zone(s) coexisting with commercial enterprises or restricted recreation zones that would exclude commercial activities. Near year's end, committee members decided to allow recreation on all parts of the river without selecting certain parts of the river for recreation only. However, at the last meeting during the year, all of the agencies except the Geological

Survey voted to set aside large parts of the river for recreation only. In addition, the committee members except the Geological Survey wanted to require a recreational compatibility plan for all new dredging permits with approval required by Wildlife and Parks, the very agency that would oversee recreation on the river.

Realizing at the outset the importance of possible impacts on the river-dredging industry, the Kansas Geological Survey conducted their own study throughout 1997 that encompassed the development of the river corridor. This study included the geology of the Kansas River corridor; the economically important industrial mineral resources, particularly sand and gravel; sediment transport; and characteristics of the river and floodplain that might favor river or floodplain dredging. Also studied were scenarios of restricted dredging, alternate sources of sand, and the increased transportation costs if other sources were used. The study, The Kansas River Corridor- Its Geologic Setting, Land Use, Economic Geology, and Hydrology, was completed in January (Kansas Geological Survey Open-file Report 98-2) and is available through the Publications and Sales office of the Kansas Geological Survey. Portions of the study dealing with industrial minerals were presented at the 1998 Annual Forum on the Geology of Industrial Minerals in Norman, Oklahoma, whose proceedings will be published at a later date.

The Kansas Geological Survey agreed with the concept of recreation zones but not the large zones proposed that excluded possible future river dredging in areas of present high population density and future large population growth. The final interagency committee recommendation did not define the area(s) of the Kansas River that should be restricted to recreation use alone. The interagency committee report was submitted at the 1998 Legislative session before House and Senate committees. The Kansas Geological Survey also submitted their study to the committees as additional information for the Kansas Legislature to make their decision on this important conflict. At the end of the Legislative session, a bill termed by some as a compromise solution between the dredging industry and recreation proponents was defeated by a vote of 16-24.

Another important and controversial issue revolves around the scarcity of ground water in western Kansas and the pit dredges along

the Arkansas River floodplain, particularly the amount of water evaporation from the pits and the resulting effects on the water-table elevation. Representatives from the Kansas Aggregate Producers Association and the Equus Beds Groundwater Management District #2 formed the Aggregate and Groundwater Resources Task Force and were given the charge to make "recommendations to the Legislature" related to ground-water resources and aggregate production. The group conducted monthly, day-long meetings from July 1997, through January 1998, and then April 1998, through December 1998, in an attempt to define the extent of the problem and come up with a solution that satisfies all parties, a goal that was almost completed by the end of 1998. The Task Force addressed the issues of transferability of water rights, differentiation of regional aquifers from stream-channel aquifers, and development of regulatory language that recognized those different geological settings. In some cases, experts were brought in to discuss specific issues. An underlying major problem throughout the study is how to handle applications for dredging permits in areas where the ground water is already appropriated. The Task Force hopes to introduce legislation early in next year's Legislative session.

In previously unreported news, during 1997, Dickinson County attempted to impose a severance tax of 20 cents per ton on stone aggregate produced in the county. Opposition was raised by the county producers and by the Kansas Aggregate Producers Association largely because no other industry that hauls on county roads had a similar tax imposed. Local aggregate producers filed an injunction preventing the implementation of the tax. During the 1998 Legislative session, a bill supported by the Kansas Aggregate Producers Association and the Kansas Department of Transportation was introduced and passed that effectively bars counties from imposing this tax. Local aggregate producers intend to continue to work with the county commissioners towards a compromise solution to assist in the repair of haul roads.

Governor Bill Graves launched his Transportation 2000 Plan in June, 1998. Kansas is in the final year of its eight-year comprehensive highway program, and enhanced Federal funding in the future prompted the Governor to announce his plan. During the year, a series of 12 town meetings were held to obtain input from citizens,

businesses, regions, and communities to form a list of perceived future transportation needs for the state.

In the area of mergers and acquisitions, Walker Stone Company, headquartered in Chapman, Kansas, acquired the 21st Street Quarry located outside of Augusta, Kansas, from George M. Myers, Inc., the latter located at El Dorado, Kansas. The quarry has been a major source of crushed stone for the Wichita area; no plans are underway to change the operation. Both companies are long-term producers of crushed stone; Walker for over 50 years and Myers for over 40 years.

Shears, Inc. divided their construction and aggregate operations into two groups. The aggregate operations are now collectively named Couch Construction Materials.

As part of the Kansas Geological Survey's multiyear program remapping much of the state, active mapping programs are underway in many counties, including Bourbon, Coffey, Comanche, Ford, Greenwood, Hamilton, Kearny, Labette, Leavenworth, Marshall, Republic, Sedgwick, Wilson, Woodson, and Wyandotte. Studies were completed for Greenwood, Leavenworth, and Labette counties and the maps should be released next year.

A new directory of industrial-mineral producers was compiled using records from both the Kansas Geological Survey and the State Conservation Commission (Kansas Geological Survey, Open-file Report 98-35). The new directory is arranged in alphabetical county order and includes the commodity, name, address, and phone number for each producer within the county as well as the legal description for each operation. The directory is expected to be available on the internet during 1999 ([www.kgs.ukans.edu](http://www.kgs.ukans.edu)). A state map showing the locations of all pits and quarries is nearly complete. The Survey is also compiling an abandoned-quarry list for the state that will eventually be on the internet. The list is expected to be completed next year.

A total of 39 open-file reports covering a variety of topics were completed at the Kansas Geological Survey during the year and are available at the library of the Survey. A publication of open-file

reports through 1998 will be issued during early 1999. Titles of all open-file reports through 1996 are now on the Survey's web site ([www.kgs.ukans.edu](http://www.kgs.ukans.edu)), and an updated list through 1998 will be placed on the net during 1999. Among recent Survey publications of interest are (1) Hydrogeology and Geochemistry of Glacial Deposits in Northeastern Kansas (Bulletin 229) and (2) Lexicon of Geologic Names for Kansas (through 1995) (Bulletin 231). Also issued was Current Research in Earth Science, 1998, (Bulletin 241) that includes a study of the "Distribution of the Bandera Shale of the Marmaton Group, Middle Pennsylvanian, of Southeastern Kansas." The state's only building sandstone, the Bandera Quarry Sandstone Member, is included.