



## *Florida Department of Transportation*

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SECRETARY

June 26, 2009

The Honorable Lisa Jackson  
Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency  
Room 3000 Ariel Rios Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator Jackson:

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) would like to convey our position on the use of fly ash in the hope that we may continue to use this material in highway construction.

The FDOT requires the use of fly ash as a supplement to the cement used in concrete mixtures for highway structures; and specifically in those structures constructed in moderately and extremely aggressive environments. The affects of these environments can significantly reduce service life due to sulfate and chloride deterioration. When fly ash is added to a concrete mixture, it increases the density or reduces the ability of chloride ions to permeate through the concrete; lowers the initial heat which protects against cracking; and in general, makes concrete more durable. The increased durability saves millions of tax payer dollars by extending the service life and delaying the replacement of a structure. In addition, fly ash is 20 to 25 percent of the cost of cement; therefore, initial savings are realized as the cost of the concrete mixture is reduced due to the replacement of cement with fly ash. The FDOT also permits the use of fly ash in roadway base materials, concrete pipe, and other concrete drainage products. The continuous use of fly ash, therefore, effectively reduces the amount of waste material that would typically end up in a landfill.

The FDOT is requesting that the Environmental Protection Agency carefully consider the many constructive uses of fly ash in highway construction. Transportation agencies at the state and local level hope to continue to provide durable concrete at low cost; to reduce waste in landfills and to provide long lasting structures.

Thank you for your consideration of this recommendation. If you have any questions or need additional information regarding this topic, please feel free to contact me at (352) 955-6620 or by email at [Tom.Malerk@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:Tom.Malerk@dot.state.fl.us).

Sincerely,

Thomas O. Malerk, P.E.  
Director, Office of Materials