

# Preserving Land & Water

Who would know more about a cement plant than someone who actually worked in one? That's why we are listening to what retired employees of the old Ideal Cement plant in Castle Hayne have to say. It operated for almost 20 years in the 70's and 80's with much less environmental regulation and technology than what is proposed today. Did it harm the natural environment? Did it impact the health of those employees and the neighboring communities? The answer is a unanimous no.

Since we first introduced our plans to build a state-of-the-art cement plant at the former Ideal Cement site, we've met with many area residents – some of whom are Ideal Cement retirees – who enthusiastically support this project. They know the importance of jobs to the local economy. They know how essential cement is to building homes, schools, bridges, roads, buildings and infrastructure. They know that we cannot become dependent on imported cement like we have become on imported oil. They also understand that before building a new facility, we need to obtain an air permit that controls emissions and safeguards the health of the community, and wetlands permits that regulate how we quarry marl and limestone.

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which is necessary for the wetlands permits, is a multi-year process led by the US Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps uses third party experts to study and ensure the long-term viability and well-being of the area's plants, fish and wildlife; the river and creeks; and the water in the aquifers. Most of the studies have started and will be completed in the next 18 months. The Corps of Engineers has gathered valuable input from the community as well as federal and state agencies, such as the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

Some in the community misinterpreted the USFWS's concerns as opposition to building the plant, which is false and takes the agency's comments out of context. The agency's letter characterized some wetlands along the Northeast Cape Fear River and Island Creek as unmitigable. Characterization of unmitigable areas relate to about 10% of the total acreage in our property. The objective of the EIS process is to develop alternatives to avoid or minimize impact to those areas.

We all need to allow this process to be completed in a thorough and systematic way, review factual and accurate scientific information instead of emotional opinions, and reach sound conclusions. During the course of the studies, we pledge to collaborate with the Corps of Engineers and show to the community that the new plant will combine economic growth with environmental stewardship, as well as protection of pristine land and waterways.

With 106 years in the cement business, we have the experience, capability and credibility to do what we say.

We invite you to stay in touch and let us know of your support, ideas and suggestions. You can call our Information and Recruiting Office in Castle Hayne at 910-799-2840, blog at [www.carolinascement.com](http://www.carolinascement.com) or talk to us in-person at the next Community Information Workshop on October 7 at the Schwartz Center in downtown Wilmington.



**Carolinas**  
Cement Company