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PRESS RELEASE

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**CEMENT PLANT TO CONTINUOUSLY OPERATE STATE-OF-THE-ART AIR
EMISSIONS CONTROL EQUIPMENT TO ENHANCE AIR QUALITY**

Dixon, Illinois, September 12, 2008 – Two subsidiaries of Votorantim Cement North America (VCNA), St. Marys Cement Inc. (U.S.) and St. Barbara Cement, Inc., agreed with the US Environmental Protection Authority (“EPA”) and the US Department of Justice in August to operate state-of-the-art air emissions control equipment on a year-round basis at the cement plant in Dixon, Illinois. The agreement has now been lodged with the court for approval.

The Dixon plant produces Portland cement, a component of concrete.

The changes resolve an issue between the EPA and the Dixon plant that pre-dates the companies’ purchase of the plant. EPA alleged that a 2003 operational decision made by CEMEX, the former owner of the plant, violated the Clean Air Act. VCNA purchased the plant two years later, in 2005.

Even before this agreement was negotiated, new emissions controls costing nearly \$1 million were voluntarily installed by VCNA and began operating at the Dixon plant.

St. Marys Cement has been recognized several times for exemplary care of the environment. For instance, the company has won the 2006 “Overall Environmental Excellence” award from the Portland Cement Association (PCA), and St. Marys Cement received a 2007 award from the Canadian government for Energy Conservation Leadership.

“We were in compliance with the law and our permit all along, but it would have taken us years and a lot of dollars to prove it,” says Erik Madsen, President and CEO of VCNA. “Instead, we decided to spend that time and money improving air quality for our employees and the community.”

“We were glad the EPA recognized the strength of our position, and pleased to be able to reach a settlement both sides could live with,” Madsen said.

In a separate and unrelated decision, VCNA has recently announced the temporary cessation of operations at the Dixon Plant due to weak economic conditions. VCNA has committed to ensure that the air emissions control technology will operate continuously when the plant restarts operations.

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