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Press Release

Fly Ash Widely Acknowledged to be Performance-enhancing, Sustainable

Montréal, Québec – October 11, 2006 – Anne Weir, Executive Director of the *Association of Canadian Industries Recycling Coal Ash (CIRCA)* noted that a little knowledge is a dangerous thing, referring to a recent *Toronto Star* article on last week's Montréal overpass collapse.

Ms. Weir indicated the article is inaccurate about the use of Fly Ash in concrete. Contrary to assertions that it is a cost-cutting additive good only in small amounts, Ms. Weir reported coal Fly Ash is widely acknowledged as a performance enhancing supplement to cement: its ability to increase strength and reduce corrosion or cracking in concrete improves durability and extends the life of structures. Consequently, the use of Fly Ash in concrete manufacture is common practice world-wide. The Confederation Bridge, linking Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick, is just one great example. It is a world class structure, designed to last 100 years in a challenging environment, and Coal Fly Ash is an integral component of its design.

Ms. Weir commented that it is unfortunate unsupported comments on the use of Fly Ash were given precedence over an objective or balanced picture of the facts. The fact is Canadian industry and government recognize the use of "supplementary cementing materials" like Fly Ash contributes to improved technical performance and sustainability objectives. To dismiss its recycling as "cheap by-product(s) of manufacturing processes" is irresponsible.

The LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) System rewards sustainable practices that demonstrate a life-cycle approach to building construction. This approach is widely supported by other socio-political leaders like Canada Green Building Council and the

Federation of Canadian Municipalities. Over the last several years, many Government of Canada building projects have been designed and constructed in accordance with LEED criteria.

Perhaps because it is so common, we tend to take concrete for granted, failing to recognize it is a highly complex material that continues to develop months and even years after it is placed. Industry and government have invested a great deal of effort to maximize, communicate and capitalize on concrete's strengths and there is much at stake. That is why balance is important, why a team of engineers will need months to ascertain causes of the overpass failure and why CIRCA promotes the responsible use of Fly Ash concrete:

"In keeping with standard construction practices, appropriate pre-testing of mix designs with region-specific materials is required to assure constructability. Application, together with environmental conditions on site determine the specific methodology for a particular job."

CIRCA and its industry colleagues are offering their final Seminar, co-sponsored by CSCE, on "Responsible Use of Supplementary Cementing Materials in Performance-based Specifications" in Montréal on November 29th. More information is available *gratis* at www.circainfo.ca

CIRCA promotes the recycling of Coal Combustion Products, a by-product of coal-fired electricity generation, to produce technically superior concrete products. CIRCA collaborates internationally with other industry organizations, including the American Coal Ash Association, the European Coal Combustion Products Association and the United Kingdom Quality Ash Association.

