



Contractor to use new asphalt mixing procedure on St. Charles Parish job

By: Christian Moises, News Editor | August 2, 2011 | 0

Barriere Construction Co.'s South Shore asphalt division was the apparent low bidder on the most expensive project last week, a nine-mile resurfacing job on U.S. Highway 61 in St. Charles Parish.

The company plans to use a new method for the project. Project manager Dawn Deangelo said Barriere will incorporate its warm mix procedure throughout much of the job, which will require about 50,000 tons of asphalt.

"The technology is that you can produce asphalt at lower temperatures," Deangelo said, adding that the substance is usually produced at between 280 and 350 degrees. The warm mix procedure requires a temperature 25 to 100 degrees lower and uses materials that allow the asphalt to be produced with less heat.

"We can increase the hauling distances from the plant to the project, reduce our energy consumption during production and we can reduce our plant emissions, making it a greener substance," she said.

Workers who often deal with extreme heat, steam and fumes, from laying hot asphalt will also benefit from the cooler material temperature, Deangelo said. Barriere has used warm mix in about 20 projects since it started incorporating it about a year ago, mainly because of the cost savings.

"The more you heat up, the more you spend on fuel, much like your home heating bill," she said.

The contract calls for the 180-day project to be done at night, which brings into play temperature constraints for laying asphalt.

Deangelo said the DOTD will issue a notice to proceed by early October. That gives Barriere 30 days to assemble equipment and supplies.

But because the temperature needs to be no lower than 50 degrees to lay the asphalt, she said the firm will recommend to the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development not to start work until March when the mercury rises.

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