

## UEPG Sustainable Development Awards 2005

**Company: Lafarge Granulats**

**Location: Île-de-France, France**

**The Chevrières-Longueil Sainte Marie Project**

**Award for Economic Contribution and Added Value to Society**



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Lafarge was founded in 1833 and is the world's leading producer in building materials. It has more than 77.000 employees in 75 countries. The Chevrières-Longueil Sainte Marie sites, which consist of a processing plant, multimodal transport hub and an alluvial quarry, are located in a flood plain in a rural area on the outskirts of Greater Paris (Ile-de-France) that is currently becoming urbanized. Alluvial materials from the quarry, as well as crushed rock aggregates transported by rail from Northern France, are sold locally and throughout the Ile-de-France region. This double role places it at the heart of local stakeholders that go far beyond the scope of the quarrying activity. In this context, only exemplary conduct could facilitate the continuation of industrial activities by obtaining new extraction authorizations. The extinction of quarrying activities in the Oise could have had disastrous economic consequences since urbanization entailed increasing needs for crushed rock. When Granulats de Picardie arrived in the area in 1997-98, quarrymen were not seen in a positive light because former quarries had been abandoned, creating hazardous areas for illegal dumping. After assessing the situation, Granulats de Picardie was structured and teams in charge of rehabilitating the abandoned zones were formed, in collaboration with all local stakeholders. Since 1999, 376 hectares were rehabilitated with:

- Supply of materials to a region characterised by high demand, taking into consideration the substitution between rock and alluvial aggregates.
- Contribution to the development of multimodal logistics in preparation for a forthcoming shortage of materials in the Ile-de-France region. A junction hub between water and railways avoids road traffic.
- Creation of flood control basins in former quarries, spares local communities from the consequences of potential flooding at a low cost.
- Development of economic activities on the restored sites that are a source of employment for the area.

The Chevrières-Longueil Sainte Marie sites in this ways gave birth to pioneering initiatives that contribute to the concept of innovative country planning and regional development.