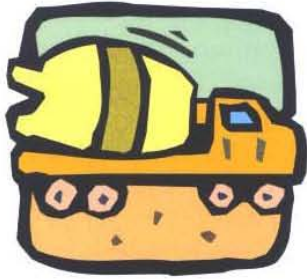


Huge Knoxville RCC Project

- Progress in a Hurry



By Pat Mayo

Knoxville is solving one problem that every city across America is facing. Each year the Federal government mandates that counties, cities, and states create less pollution. Phase One of the Solid Waste Management Act of 1991 stipulates that counties must reduce waste going to sanitary landfills by 25%. This year, Knoxville initiated a solution to divert yard waste and contract with a private company to grind and process the raw materials into mulch and eventually compost.

In some areas of the country this type of effort has met with opposition to the often malodorous and loud procedure, but there is a better method. Since the first product to be produced is mulch, not compost, the yard waste must not break down bio-



logically, so a staging area or concrete pad would be needed to keep the waste from contact with soil.

Phase I of Knoxville's plan was ready to be implemented late last summer. The city found a secluded five acre tract on top of a large ridge. Crews cleared the land, flattened the summit, and constructed an unpaved access road. A contract was signed with Southeastern Construction and Equipment Company to begin operations. Two of

eight County Convenience Collection stations receiving yard waste were readied to send it to the new facility. Sources for untreated clean lumber waste from pallets was located. Peak season for yard waste was coming in a few short days-literally tons of fall leaves.

But how could the large area be paved and put into service in such a short time? Roller Compacted Concrete (RCC) was the only way. City engineers and others had heard of large scale RCC projects placed in Florida and California. ABG, L.L.C. (Abramson Gray Peltz) of Birmingham, AL, was the company involved in most of the projects.



Knoxville Engineers turned to Ron Peltz, who owns three German made high density asphalt pavers used for RCC.

To construct the large concrete area needed, crews paved a 2,400 feet long 29 feet across RCC pad in four sections. They brought in a water truck and curing compound as soon as the concrete was placed. As crews began the second section of paving the next day, the company crews began dumping yard waste on the pad placed only the day before. At press time in the middle of November, drainage, concrete curbs, and gutters are being completed on the 10,000 cubic yard project, and the access road to the area has also been paved with RCC.

When fully finished, the county, city, parks, schools, businesses, land clear



ing facilitators, grocers, and other entities will send clean, organic materials to be turned into mulch, some of which will be composted. One golf course in Nashville now features Knoxville mulch from pallets.

"We've not advertised much, but people are already bringing in yard waste. Our long term goal is to solicit materials from all over to further reduce the waste stream," commented John Evans, director of the Solid Waste Division of Engineering

and PublicWorks in Knoxville.

Thanks to the speed, economy and durability of RCC, the Knox County Green Waste Facility is just one more way that concrete is contributing to a cleaner environment.

