

## New York Side-Steps Microsilica for HRM

*Concrete Products*, May 1996

Last month, the New York State Department of Transportation's Materials Bureau in Albany approved use of high-reactivity metakaolin as a replacement for silica fume in bridge deck applications. "We tested it (HRM) under the exact same specifications as microsilica, and it came out equal to or, in a couple of tests, better than microsilica," notes NYDOT's Paul St. John, civil engineer. "Now that it's approved, we'll do a field test this year, if we can find a contract to put it in."



St. John said the primary application would be bridge decks. However, the state is looking closely at high-durability concrete for all applications, and the HRM product could have a use there. "We're working our way toward high-performance concrete which calls for 500 lb. of Type II cement, 135 lb. of fly ash, and 40 lb. of microsilica per cubic yard," St. John explains. "By the end of next year, all concrete for the state of New York will be high-performance, whether it be roads, bridges, back walls, wing walls, sidewalks, you name it."

Metakaolin will be on the list of admixtures that impart higher performance, along with other pozzolans, including rice hull ash. "If you look at the finite amount of microsilica that's made in America today, what happens if we make all our concrete using microsilica? There won't be enough microsilica for us to use," St. John said. "We're looking at these alternates. And we notice that whenever we have done this in the past, the price comes down. The competition is good."

To see the New York State Department of Transportation approved product list, [click here...](#)

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