

Cement plant converting

The Lone Star Cement Company is in the midst of a large-scale renovation of its plant off Highway 1 in Davenport which will effectively double its output and lead to a reduction in the amount of pollution spewed from the plant.

The 18-month project is expected to be completed by early 1981 and will bring the plant's output from 390,000 to 775,000 tons of cement per year, according to plant manager Dave Maars.

The first sign of the renovation came last summer when construction crews tore down the plant's tall smokestack which had sent smoke billowing into the Monterey Bay for decades.

"As old as it was," said Maars, "it was too costly to be competitive." He said the decision to convert the plant was based not only on the economics but also in an attempt to comply with environmental regulations.

Although the new plant will produce twice as much as the old, Maars said the pollution exuded from the coal burning will be less than that produced by the heavy oil.

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