

# GREEN LIGHT GIVEN FOR WMA



*Meeker Equipment's WMA System (left) and the Astec Double Barrel Green are both utilized by The Shelly Company for its Warm Mix Asphalt production.*

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) has removed the restriction on the use of Warm Mix Asphalt (WMA) in its heavy traffic surface courses, Item 442 (Superpave), in the most recent release of Supplemental Specification (SS) 800, dated April 16, 2010, Item 442.01. With this change, foamed WMA, per Item 402.09, can now be used in all traffic classes and all pavement courses, including base, intermediate and surface.

The change to the ODOT construction specifications makes WMA a "permissive" material. That means contractors may utilize foamed-WMA at their will, provided the mixing facility equipment meets ODOT requirements. Specifically calling for WMA in plans is no longer necessary. This change facilitates the most competitive opportunity for

ODOT projects, as contractors vie for technologies that make them more efficient. Other agencies utilizing the ODOT specifications will also benefit from WMA's advantages.

State materials specifications do make provision for other WMA processes, though not specifically cited in WMA specifications. The ODOT Construction & Materials Specifications, Section 100 (General Provisions), permit contractors to propose alternatives to the foamed asphalt process. The contractor must have an open contract with ODOT, and the alternative being proposed must result in a cost savings to the project. The proposed WMA process must be reviewed by the Office of Materials Management and have a demonstrable history of successful use.