

**New York State  
Environmental Investment Program  
Capital Project Summary  
Riefler Concrete Products, LLC**

**Project Background**

Riefler Concrete operates seven concrete batch plants in the Buffalo area. The Cheektowaga plant is their smallest and busiest. Riefler produces 300,000 yards per year of concrete and generates \$28 million per year in sales revenues. They have been in operation since 1954 and employ 200 people. Prior to this project, Riefler was incurring excessive waste handling costs at the Cheektowaga facility because it lacked both the capacity and space to reuse concrete components on site. Leftover ready mix concrete returned from job sites in mixer trucks was poured out on-site, allowed to harden and hauled to Riefler's Hamburg location where it was stockpiled (there is no room to stockpile waste concrete at the Cheektowaga facility.) Some of this material was also occasionally tipped directly from the mixer trucks at Swift River Associates where it was then sold as clean fill. Water from truck drum rinsing and truck exterior washing was allowed to collect in a basin, pumped out daily and trucked to Riefler's Hamburg facility where it was reused in the manufacture of new concrete.

**Project Description**

Through this project, Riefler purchased an Enviro-Port ready-mix concrete reclamation system. The system captures leftover concrete mixture directly from returning trucks, separates and cleans the aggregate and sand and captures the truck rinse and wash water (which is more accurately a slurry of water and fine particles). All of these materials can then be used in the manufacture of new concrete.

The system measures and adjusts the specific gravity of the slurry before adding it to the manufacturing process.

**Project Results**

Riefler is now saving \$133,500 per year in: the avoided purchase of sand and aggregate, avoided dump truck rental charges (for hauling hardened concrete to Hamburg for stockpiling) and avoided labor and fuel costs (for hauling to Hamburg and Swift River). There are 8,263 tons per year of sand and aggregate formerly dumped or used as fill is being recycled back into Riefler's Cheektowaga batch plant.

In addition to creating recycling and economic benefits, Riefler will permanently avoid any future potential for the Cheektowaga water storage basin to overflow into nearby surface waters. Because of the Enviro-Port System, Riefler has begun to work with other concrete producers to encourage the NYS DOT to use recycled concrete. Finally, Riefler is beginning to observe unanticipated opportunities to save on cement purchases. Because it contains cement, the slurry produced and reused in the manufacture of new concrete lends that concrete strength qualities normally obtained from cement. Riefler is quantifying by how much they may be able to reduce cement purchases and intends to begin doing so next year.

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**Contractor:** Erie County IDA  
**County:** Erie  
**ESD Region:** Western New York  
**ESD Contact:** 518/292-5340

**NYS EIP Investment:** \$92,983  
**Contractor Match:** \$213,317  
**Total:** \$306,300  
**Completion Date:** September, 2001