

## **Meeting demand and gaining local residents' acceptance for quarries**

Quarrying activities can have a number of environmental impacts at local level – noise, vibrations and alteration of the landscape. To these nuisances is added that of transport of materials from the quarry to the construction site. To maintain the support of the local communities on whose land our quarries are operated, we strive constantly to reduce these impacts while continuing to meet the local and national demand for quarried materials.

**In many parts of the world, we have to deal with the NIMBY syndrome:** not in my backyard. Even though local authorities and residents recognize the need to quarry materials of which they are themselves end users, they often oppose quarries being opened or extended in their locality.

**Apart from environmental impacts, the Group often has to compete with other players for the use of land.** Frequently, the extension of urban or agricultural zones will be weighed against our projects. Reluctance on the part of local communities has two economic consequences for our Group:

- ♦ An increase in the time required to obtain permits, which has already extended significantly over the last few years
- ♦ A requirement to move quarrying zones further away from densely populated areas which are also end users of materials. This then gives rise to further opposition, which is even stronger as most of the production is exported and therefore of little benefit to local residents.

**In view of this context, Lafarge must not only demonstrate to the communities where it operates the favorable impact for the local economy, but also prove its ability to preserve the environment (through quarry rehabilitation in particular) and to behave responsibly.** However, our efforts do not mean that it is always possible to achieve a balance. For example, aggregates producers plan their activities as a function of the operating life of a quarry – on average between 5 and 50 years. Local authority decision-makers usually work on

far shorter timescales. In the years ahead, this situation could lead to a shortage of aggregates in a number of regions throughout the world. This has already happened, for example, in the Greater Paris region.