



Leah F. Pilconis
Senior Counsel, Environmental Law & Policy
Associated General Contractors of America (AGC)

Leah Pilconis is an attorney, consultant, and change agent for environmental law and policy issues that impact the construction industry. She currently serves as senior environmental counsel to the Associated General Contractors of America and has spent the last 16.5 years establishing and directing the association's environmental program. Acting in that capacity, Leah represents more than 26,000-member companies in a multitude of environmental rulemakings – by preparing comprehensive legal comments, testifying at public hearings, managing national coalition efforts, developing effective advocacy tools, and voicing the industry's position at hundreds of meetings with government staff and other stakeholder groups.

Leah has deep substantive knowledge in areas of the greatest legislative and regulatory activity, including but not limited to: stormwater runoff, dredge-and-fill discharges, "Waters of the U.S." jurisdiction, spill prevention planning and reporting, national air standards, diesel engine emissions limits, lead paint renovation/abatement, hazardous waste management and "Next Generation" reporting and enforcement. As a function of her entrenched experience and visibility, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Small Business Administration work regularly with Leah to understand the effect of rulemaking on the construction process and to better align their decisions with industry needs. Leah currently serves as the construction industry liaison to U.S. EPA's "Smart Sectors" Program. Additionally, Leah advises AGC affiliates on how to participate in this process and ensure that the industry's voice is heard.

Notable achievements include—

- Led AGC's successful advocacy efforts to avert unworkable federal (one-size-fits-all) construction stormwater numeric discharge limits for active construction sites and first-time federal limits on runoff/flow from completed sites
- Served as an industry representative on government advisory panels tasked with evaluating the small-business impact of new federal rules re-defining the scope of "Waters of the United States" and the extent to which renovation work in commercial buildings is controlled by federal lead-paint rules
- Testified before U.S. Congress at recent hearings on "Infrastructure Project Streamlining and Efficiency: Achieving Faster, Better, and Cheaper Results," "Evaluating the

Paperwork Reduction Act: Are Burdens Being Reduced?” and “EPA’s Expanded Interpretation of Its Permit Veto Authority Under the Clean Water Act”

- Acted as co-chair for the construction section of U.S. EPA’s Clean Diesel Retrofit Work Group
- Served as the construction industry point-of-contact for U.S. EPA’s Clean Diesel Collaboratives – helped more than a dozen construction trade associations prepare applications for clean diesel grant funds

For those construction contractors seeking to achieve or exceed full compliance with the federal laws, Leah launched in 2000 *AGC’s Environmental Observer*, a monthly e-newsletter that provides members with environmental news relevant to construction. She also played an integral role in designing and drafting U.S. EPA’s latest suite of compliance assistance tools for the construction industry, for example the online Construction Industry Compliance Assistance Center at www.cicacenter.org, and contributes frequently to a variety of business and professional publications and conferences. In addition, Leah administers an *ad-hoc* group of “in-house” environmental managers who come together twice a year to share information and best practices.

Leah’s customary duties involve extensive public speaking, program development and compliance training. One of her strengths is the ability to present complex legal issues in an easy to understand and accessible manner.

Leah holds a B.S. degree in Biology from Gettysburg College and a J.D. degree from the Dickinson School of Law of the Pennsylvania State University. She is member of the American Bar Association’s Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources; Forum on Construction Industry, Division 10 (Energy and Environment). Admitted to practice in Pennsylvania.

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