



## **AGC DELIVERS ON ENVIRONMENTAL REFORM**

**Our efforts help create jobs, spur innovation and investment and strengthen the economy**

The Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) works year round to protect construction jobs and the environment. AGC has a long history of working closely with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to improve environmental performance in a way that doesn't undermine economic growth. AGC consistently brings contractors' views to the forefront and helps craft solutions that protect the environment and help members.

AGC will continue to push for sound, fact-based, decision-making at all levels of government. Our goal is to protect the industry from costly, prescriptive and unnecessary regulations that would hurt the economy without benefitting the environment.

### **National Air Standards**

**AGC protected federal highway funding for states, prevented construction bans and blocked mandatory diesel retrofits by delaying exceedingly strict national air standards.**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) set out to significantly lower permissible levels of ozone in the air at a time when implementation of the current standard is still underway and despite key uncertainties in the underlying science. AGC commented that such action would put hundreds of U.S. counties into "non-attainment status" for the first time and lead to costly new restrictions and controls, affecting both businesses and consumers. AGC pointed to the lack of new scientific evidence to justify tighter standards and urged EPA to complete its scheduled review of the most current science on ozone, due out in 2013. **EPA has delayed consideration of any new standards. Annual Savings to U.S. Economy: Up to \$90 Billion**

### **Stormwater Discharge Limit**

**AGC compelled EPA to delay new limits on how much dirt it will allow in stormwater runoff from construction jobsites – and the monitoring, reporting and civil litigation that would go along with those limits.**

For more than a decade, EPA has been trying to limit the amount of dirt allowed in stormwater running across active construction sites. AGC has long argued that the agency is not ready to impose a "one-size-fits-all" numeric limit that exceeds Clean Water Act requirements, could be impossible to meet, and would make it easier for anyone opposed to development to file suit against construction projects. AGC's work has uncovered many of the serious flaws in the data used to develop EPA's latest measure – estimated to cost the regulated community twice as much as any benefits the public may receive. **EPA has put any new stormwater discharge limits on indefinite hold while it considers new data. Annual Savings for Construction: \$1 Billion**

## Fly Ash in Construction

**AGC slowed EPA's efforts to declare Coal Fly Ash "hazardous," which would effectively end its use in construction.**

The construction industry puts to good use large amounts of coal combustion residuals, including about 18 million tons of fly ash a year. AGC has commented that such beneficial reuse activities are in jeopardy because EPA has proposed to re-categorize fly ash as a "hazardous" waste -- creating new liability for contractors who have previously used fly ash and increasing road building costs by up to \$100 billion over the next two decades. **EPA is slowing down, reviewing more data and soliciting more public input before finalizing a national rule. U.S. Congress is considering AGC-supported legislation that would prevent a hazardous designation of fly ash. Savings for Construction Over Next Two Decades: \$100 Billion**

## Lead Paint 'Clearance' Testing

**AGC turned back a federal proposal to force contractors to conduct costly lead dust tests on many renovated buildings.**

EPA was on track to amend the current Lead Renovation Repair and Painting (LRRP) program to require contractors to conduct costly and time consuming lead dust sampling and testing on a wide range of projects. AGC pointed out serious legal deficiencies in EPA's proposal, as well as the lack of available science. **EPA recognized that existing lead-safe work practices and clean-up requirements will protect people from any lead dust created during renovation jobs (as shown by current data) and additional, costly clearance requirements are not needed. Annual Savings for Construction: \$300 Million**

## Off-road Diesel Emissions Rules

**AGC protected the industry from an unneeded California rule that would have required contractors nationwide to retire, retrofit or replace billions worth of off-road diesel equipment.**

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) attempted to put in place new rules requiring contractors to cover the cost of retrofitting or replacing billions of dollars worth of construction equipment – rules that any state with air quality concerns could adopt. AGC identified significant flaws in the data the Board used to justify its rules and raised awareness across the country that one-size-fits-all "retrofits" may jeopardize worker safety. California acknowledged significant errors in the original estimates of off-road diesel equipment. **California significantly scaled back the nation's first-ever rules for in-use construction equipment, giving fleet owners more time and more options to reduce their emissions. Total Savings for Construction: \$45 Billion**

## Funding for Diesel Retrofit

**AGC secured millions in federal funding for contractors who voluntarily retrofit their off-road diesel equipment.**

AGC has worked to ensure adequate federal funding is in place to finance upgrades to contractors' equipment fleets to reduce diesel emissions. And we've worked to build bipartisan support for measures that would fund upgrades to construction equipment on federal-aid highway projects. **Grants Awarded to AGC Chapters: Approximately \$10 Million**

*To learn more about AGC's efforts to protect the industry from regulatory overreach and to read about our latest victories, subscribe to AGC's Environmental Observer newsletter <http://www.aqc.org/environment> or contact Leah Pilconis at [pilconisl@aqc.org](mailto:pilconisl@aqc.org).*