



LEADERSHIP CHANGES

Meet the New ACAA Chair, Lisa Cooper

Lisa Cooper on site at a PMI power plant installation.

The summer membership meeting of the American Coal Ash Association featured a changing of the guard for ACAA leadership. Mark Bryant of Ameren stepped down as ACAA Chairman after four years of service. The new Chair of the Board for the 2012-14 term will be Lisa Cooper of PMI Ash Technologies.

Lisa is an Owner, General Counsel, and Senior Vice President at PMI. Located in Cary, North Carolina, PMI is one of the first companies to commercialize a carbon burn-out technology to allow coal fly ash to be sold as a partial replacement for portland cement even after environmental controls have been installed at power plants.

Lisa was formerly Vice President at Progress Materials; Director of Environmental, Health and Safety at Progress Fuels; and Associate General Counsel at Progress Energy Services. Prior to that, she spent seven years practicing law following her

graduation from Syracuse University and Syracuse College of Law.

ASH at Work had a few questions for Lisa as she assumes her new responsibilities:

Q: When was the first time you heard about coal ash?

A: I have been involved with coal ash since approximately 1985. I have worked with or on behalf of utilities and addressed numerous opportunities and issues involving coal ash.

Q: You have worked both on the utility and marketing sides of the coal ash industry. Do you think that give you a different perspective?

A: Yes, definitely!

Q: This is a challenging time to assume the position of ACAA chair. Any fears about stepping up now?

A: Fears, concerns and hopes all wrapped into one. From a U.S. political standpoint, dialogue has become so polarized that stalemate is the norm. Stalemate challenges and suppresses jobs and investment within our CCP recycling industry. Failure to act prolongs paralysis within our industry. This is my biggest fear. My concern is that we within the industry become disenchanted that positive change will occur and use our voices for other non-CCP grassroots efforts. My hope is we remain united, change the status quo and get EPA and others to stand up and endorse the safe recycling of yesterday's, today's and tomorrow's fly ash, gypsum and other CCPs.

Q: How would you describe the past three years of the coal ash industry's history?

A: The last three years, from a jobs and financial perspective, have been very difficult for our industry. It has also been very demoralizing. We have seen elected officials flip-flop on our issues and observed unfettered access for

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certain groups within federal agencies while we wait for calls or a meeting. But, ACAA has been a grassroots organization that has remained ethical, with high veracity and despite our limited resources made things happen when no one thought we could. In many ways, it has been quite inspiring!

Q: You’re the first woman and the first attorney to hold the position of ACAA chair. What do you think that says about you and about the Association?

A: I think it speaks very highly of the Association to elect a person based upon their prior service to the Association regardless of their sex or background. (Lawyers are just below lobbyists, Sirhan Sirhan and Casey Anthony with respect to most hated persons in America.) Seriously, I am deeply honored to serve as the Chair.

Q: Assuming that coal ash is ultimately designated (again) as a “non-hazardous” material, what do you see as the ongoing challenges for the beneficial use industry as it recovers from the regulatory debate?

A: The top challenge for the domestic recycling industry post-non-hazardous designation will be to rebuild our brand with the American public as it has been deeply harmed.

Q: Are there new opportunities out there, as well?

A: Yes, there are and will be many new opportunities. The question will be if we can make it to take advantage of them and will reasonable incentives be offered, awarded or shared with our recycling industry that are offered to others.

Q: What are your top priorities for your term as ACAA chair?

A: My top priorities are:

1. To ensure that ACAA speaks with one strong voice for the CCP recycling industry.
2. To promote diversity within the ACAA organization with special emphasis on the role of women in leadership.
3. To help our government and regulators understand the important role that the coal ash industry plays in sustainable energy programs for this country.

Q: What advice would you give to ACAA members who want to get the most out of their Association membership?

A: In order to get the most out of your ACAA membership, members must get involved in the ACAA. By doing this, you will see issues through different lenses, provide opportunities for growth for yourself and your company. Also, speak up! Please know we want to hear your thoughts – good or bad! ❖

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