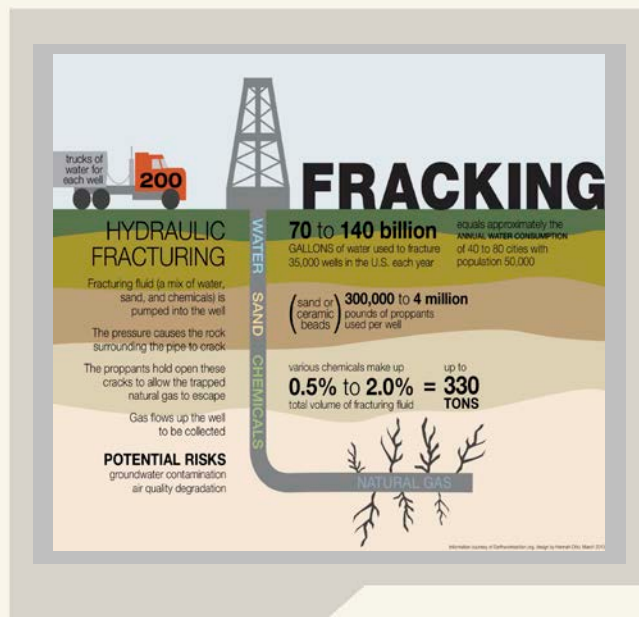


EPA Releases Final Report on Impacts from Hydraulic Fracturing Activities on Drinking Water

EPA is releasing its scientific report on the impacts from hydraulic fracturing activities on drinking water resources which provides states and others the scientific foundation to better protect drinking water resources in areas where hydraulic fracturing is occurring or being considered. The report, done at the request of Congress, provides scientific evidence that hydraulic fracturing activities can impact drinking water resources in the United States under some circumstances. As part of the report, EPA identified conditions under which impacts from hydraulic fracturing activities can be more frequent or severe. The report also identifies uncertainties and data gaps. These uncertainties and data gaps limited EPA's ability to fully assess impacts to drinking water resources both locally and nationally. These final conclusions are based upon review of over 1,200 cited scientific sources; feedback from an independent peer review conducted by EPA's Science Advisory Board; input from engaged stakeholders; and new research conducted as part of the study. "The value of high quality science has never been more important in helping to guide decisions around our nation's fragile water resources. EPA's assessment provides the scientific foundation for local decision makers, industry, and communities that are looking to protect public health and drinking water resources and make more informed decisions about hydraulic fracturing activities," said Dr. Thomas A. Burke, EPA's Science Advisor and Deputy Assistant Administrator of EPA's Office of Research and Development. "This assessment is the most complete compilation to date of national scientific data on the relationship of drinking water resources and hydraulic fracturing." Read more on the report and how to acquire a copy at:

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-releases-final-report-impacts-hydraulic-fracturing-activities-drinking-water>

**DO YOU HAVE ARTICLES FOR THE
SMALLBIZ@EPA NEWSLETTER?
FORWARD TO: LILLIAN HARRIS AT:
HARRIS.LILLIAN@EPA.GOV
EPA'S OMBUDSMAN,
JOAN B. ROGERS AT:
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U.S. EPA Requires Plastic Manufacturer Protect Santa Clara River from Pollution

EPA has reached an agreement with Canyon Plastics, Inc. to resolve federal Clean Water Act violations. The company has corrected the deficiencies found at its facility in Valencia, Calif., and obtained a stormwater permit. In addition to paying a \$19,000 penalty, Canyon Plastics has committed to install new recycling equipment at a cost of \$292,000. Canyon Plastics, located at 28455 Livingston Avenue, uses large quantities of small plastic pellets, known as "nurdles," as raw material to manufacture plastic products. During a September 2015 inspection, EPA found the facility did not have a permit to discharge industrial stormwater and had not implemented practices to reduce the discharge of pollutants to local waterways. The inspectors found leaked or spilled nurdles throughout the facility's waste management area and loading docks and a lack of containment systems such as mesh screens within storm drain inlets. Read more at:

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/us-epa-requires-plastic-manufacturer-protect-santa-clara-river-pollution>

EPA's Region 5, the Metal Finishing Industry and the Small Business Environmental Assistance Programs Partnered on Compliance Assistance for the Plating and Polishing Rule

After EPA Region 5 inspectors found compliance issues at metal finishing shops affected by the Plating and Polishing Rule, 40 CFR Part 63 subpart WWWW (also known as 6W), EPA staff reached out to the state Small Business Environmental Assistance Programs (SBEAP) in the region for assistance in providing outreach and compliance assistance to this predominantly small business industry. In November, Region 5's state SBEAPs met with representatives from the National Association of Surface Finishers (www.nasf.org) and local industry service providers to familiarize themselves with key industry practices and terminology which can help businesses effectively communicate how certain compliance requirements are being met if they are inspected. For example, the rule states the affected source should use "wetting agent/fume suppressant" to reduce surface tension in a bath and, thereby, minimizing emissions. The industry vendors explained that nickel plating is already a low emitting process when compared to chrome plating. In most cases, the plating operations affected by this rule will use a wetting agent that is included in the chemical formula of what the industry calls a "brightener package" added to one of the plating baths. The required wetting agent is included in the "brightener package" to improve the quality of the nickel finish and the emissions reduction is a side benefit of the chemistry. Chrome plating, in contrast, has much higher gassing rates and needs additional fume suppressants to reduce emissions. Region 5 SBEAPs and industry representatives are partnering to create industry outreach and simplified compliance tools to address key compliance concerns observed by EPA inspectors. The group believes that the creation of simplified recordkeeping tools, effective industry education, and the industry's improved ability to communicate/demonstrate their compliance should result in better compliance. In addition, the group plans to build upon the resources of one of EPA's Compliance Assistance Centers, the National Metal Finishing Resource Center that can be found at <http://www.nmfr.org/>. Region 5 includes the following states: Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, Indiana, Ohio and Michigan.



EPA FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICES**SUBJECT: Notice of Data Availability Concerning the Renewables Enhancement and Growth Support Rule**

<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-12-14/pdf/2016-29896.pdf>

Federal Register: Vol. 81, No. 240, Wednesday, December 14, 2016/Proposed Rule

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency

ACTION: Proposed Rule

SUMMARY: This Notice provides an opportunity to comment on new information that pertains to the proposed provisions for ethanol flex fuel contained in the Renewables Enhancement and Growth Support (REGS) rule which was published in the Federal Register on November 16, 2016. The new information is contained in the report titled “Property Analysis of Ethanol—Natural Gasoline—BOB Blends to Make Flex Fuel” that has been placed in the public docket for this action. In the proposed REGS rule, the EPA proposed volatility standards for ethanol flex fuel (EFF) to prevent excessive evaporative emissions that could adversely affect the emissions control systems of flexible fuel vehicles (FFVs) and human health. Comments are due on or before January 17, 2017.

SUBJECT: Air Quality Designations for the 2010 Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂)

<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-12-13/pdf/2016-29561.pdf>

Federal Register: Vol. 81, No. 239, Tuesday, December 13, 2016/Rules and Regulations

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency

ACTION: Final Rule

SUMMARY: This rule establishes the initial air quality designations for four areas in Texas for the 2010 primary sulfur dioxide (SO₂) National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS). The effective date of this rule is January 12, 2017.

**EPA Recycles 120 Laptops with Donation to Newport News Schools**

EPA recently announced the donation of 120 laptop computers to the Newport News School District as part of an ongoing effort to keep harmful electronics away from landfills and put them to productive use in schools. “Donating or recycling consumer electronics like laptop computers conserves our natural resources and avoids air and water pollution as well as greenhouse gas emissions that are caused by manufacturing raw materials,” said EPA Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator Shawn M. Garvin. “This donation is especially rewarding because the laptops will be put to valuable use by the Newport News School District.” The computers are being donated under the U.S. General Services Administration’s Computers for Learning Program that encourages government agencies to transfer excess computers and related peripheral equipment to schools and educational nonprofit organizations. Recycling or reusing electronics helps divert waste from landfills. Read more at:

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-recycles-120-laptops-donation-newport-news-schools>

EPA's Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) is Requesting Nominees for the Administrator's 27th Annual Small Business Program Awards Ceremony

On December 16, 2016, OSDBU issued a formal request to the Agency for nominations for the Administrator's 27th Annual Small Business Program Awards. The ceremony is scheduled to be held tentatively on May 4, 2017. The awards recognize various program activities, individuals, businesses, and state and local entities for their outstanding contributions in **Fiscal Year 2016**.

To receive a copy of the award procedures and nomination forms for the various awards, and with any questions you may have, please contact Bridgette Dent at dent.bridgette@epa.gov or she can be reached on (202) 566-2819. Nominations should be sent electronically to Bridgette no later than February 10, 2017.

<http://www2.epa.gov/resources-small-businesses>

EPA Seeks Nominations for Environmental Champions

Each year, the EPA recognizes and honors environmental trailblazers – individuals, businesses and organizations that have contributed significantly to improving the environment and protecting public health. EPA is seeking nominations of environmental stewards within its region covering New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and eight federally recognized Indian Nations who have gone above and beyond for environmental change in local communities. Winners will be honored with this annual award at a ceremony in the Spring of 2017 at EPA's regional office in Manhattan. The Agency is accepting nominations for its Environmental Champion Awards until February 3, 2017.

“EPA's prestigious Environmental Champion Award recognizes the hard work, vision and courage exhibited by local leaders who are committed to environmental protection. Everyone is encouraged to nominate people who are stellar leaders in this arena,” said EPA Deputy Regional Administrator Catherine McCabe.

To nominate an individual or organization, please visit EPA's Environmental Champion Award webpage at <http://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/environmental-champion-awards>.

The site also includes details about award criteria, prior winners and application instructions