

SMALLBIZ@EPA

EPA's Asbestos and Small Business Ombudsman Program

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE REGULATED SMALL BUSINESS COMMUNITY

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POLICY & REGULATION

Miscellaneous Coating Manufacturing: National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP)

This regulation establishes emission limits and work practice requirements for new and existing miscellaneous coating manufacturing operations, including process vessels, storage tanks, wastewater, transfer operations, equipment leaks, and heat exchange systems, and implements section 112(d) of the Clean Air Act (CAA) by requiring all major sources to meet hazardous air pollutant (HAP) emission standards reflecting application of the maximum achievable control technology (MACT). The HAP emitted from miscellaneous coating manufacturing facilities include toluene, xylene, glycol ethers, and methyl isobutyl ketone. Exposure to these substances has been demonstrated to cause adverse health effects such as irritation of the lung, eye, and mucous membranes, effects on the central nervous system, and cancer.

The final rule will reduce HAP emissions by 4,900 tons per year for existing facilities that manufacture miscellaneous coatings. [Read the full article](#)

Lead Acid Battery Manufacturing Area Sources: National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP)

This final national emission standard for hazardous air pollutants (NESHAP) applies to new and existing lead acid battery manufacturing plants that are area sources.

The Lead Acid Battery Manufacturing area source category was listed for regulation pursuant to section 112(c)(3) for its contribution of the urban hazardous air pollutants (HAP) lead and cadmium. The final rule adopts as the NESHAP for the Lead Acid Battery Manufacturing area source category the numerical emissions limits for grid casting, paste mixing, three process operations, lead oxide manufacturing, lead reclamation, and other lead emitting processes in 40 CFR 60.372 of the new source performance standards (NSPS) for lead acid batteries.

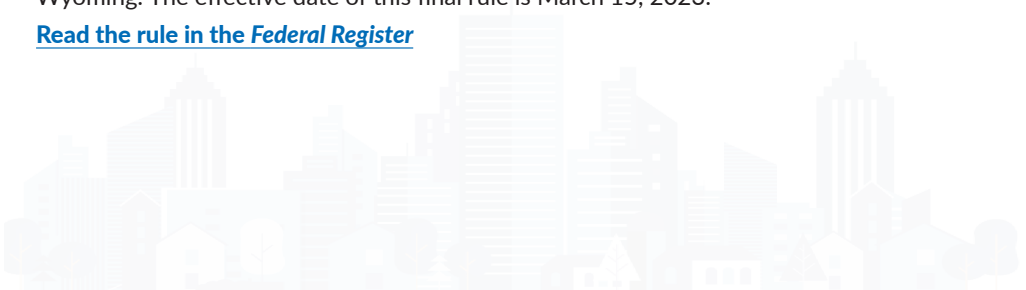
[Read about the rule](#)

Air Plan Disapprovals; Interstate Transport of Air Pollution for the 2015 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards

Pursuant to the Federal Clean Air Act (CAA or the Act), EPA is finalizing the disapproval of State Implementation Plan (SIP) submissions for 19 states regarding interstate transport and finalizing a partial approval and partial disapproval of elements of the SIP submission for two states for the 2015 8-hour ozone national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS). The “good neighbor” or “interstate transport” provision requires that each state's SIP contain adequate provisions to prohibit emissions from within the state from significantly contributing to nonattainment or interfering with maintenance of the NAAQS in other states. This requirement is part of the broader set of “infrastructure” requirements, which are designed to ensure that the structural components of each state's air quality management program are adequate to meet the state's responsibilities under the CAA. Disapproving a SIP submission establishes a 2-year deadline for the EPA to promulgate Federal Implementation Plans (FIPs) to address the relevant requirements, unless the EPA approves a subsequent SIP submission that meets these requirements. Disapproval does not start a mandatory sanctions clock.

The EPA is deferring final action at this time on the disapprovals it proposed for Tennessee and Wyoming. The effective date of this final rule is March 15, 2023.

[Read the rule in the Federal Register](#)



Biden-Harris Administration Reaffirms Scientific, Economic, and Legal Underpinnings of Limits on Toxic Air Pollution from Power Plants

On February 17, 2023, EPA reaffirmed the scientific, economic, and legal underpinnings of the 2012 Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS) for power plants, which required significant reductions of mercury, acid gases, and other harmful pollutants. Controlling these emissions improves public health by reducing fatal heart attacks, reducing cancer risks, avoiding neurodevelopmental delays in children, and helping protect our environment. These public health protections are especially important for anyone affected by hazardous air pollution, including children and particularly vulnerable segments of the population such as Indigenous communities, low-income communities, and people of color who live near power plants.

Learn more at [Mercury and Air Toxics Standards](#). [Read the press release](#)

Clean Water Act Methods Update Rule for the Analysis of Effluent

EPA is proposing changes to its test procedures required to be used by industries and municipalities when analyzing the chemical, physical, and biological properties of wastewater and other samples for reporting under EPA's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program. The Clean Water Act (CWA) requires EPA to promulgate these test procedures (analytical methods) for analysis of pollutants. EPA anticipates that these proposed changes would provide increased flexibility for the regulated community in meeting monitoring requirements while improving data quality. In addition, this proposed update to the CWA methods would incorporate technological advances in analytical technology and make a series of minor changes and corrections to existing approved methods. As such, EPA expects that there would be no negative economic impacts resulting from these proposed changes.

Comments on this proposed rule must be received on or before April 24, 2023.

[Read the proposed rule in the *Federal Register*](#)



KEY DATES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Climate Pollution Reduction Grants

The Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) program will provide grants to states, territories, tribes, air pollution control agencies, and local governments to develop and implement plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful air pollution. Section 60114 of the Inflation Reduction Act provides an investment of \$5 billion to support efforts by states, territories, municipalities, tribes, and groups thereof to develop and implement strong, local greenhouse gas reduction strategies. This two-staged grant program provides funding of \$250 million for planning grants, and \$4.6 billion for implementation grants.

The CPRG program will be designed to provide flexible support to states, tribes and local governments regardless of where they are in their climate planning and implementation process. For example, projects could further goals and policies for clean energy, energy efficiency, and more. [Read more about the grants](#)

EPA Seeks Input on Inflation Reduction Act Environmental and Climate Justice Program

On February 9, 2023, EPA issued a Request for Information (RFI) seeking input on its Environmental and Climate Justice (ECJ) program funded by President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act. This program provides EPA with approximately \$3 billion for ECJ program grants and technical assistance for environmental and climate justice efforts that benefit overburdened communities.

This RFI seeks public input on new and innovative strategies and approaches for competition design, community engagement, equitable distribution of financial resources, grantee eligibility for funding, capacity-building and outreach, and technical assistance. The deadline to provide input is March 17, 2023. [Read the press release](#)

New Pollution Prevention (P2) Grant Opportunities Focused on Environmental Justice are Coming Soon!

EPA will soon announce two new grant opportunities funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which President Biden signed in November 2021. These grants will provide funding for states and tribes to provide businesses with technical assistance to help them adopt pollution-prevention (P2) practices to advance environmental justice in underserved and overburdened communities across the country. These new grant opportunities are expected to be posted on [Grants.gov](#) in the coming weeks, and applicants will have 90 days to apply. EPA is providing notice of these grant opportunities in advance so potential applicants can make the necessary preparations to submit a high-quality application to the Agency. [Read more on the Program](#)

Biden-Harris Administration Announces Additional \$1B in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funds to Start New Cleanup Projects and Expedite On-going Cleanup Work Across the Country

On February 10, 2023, EPA announced the second wave of approximately \$1 billion in funding from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to start new cleanup projects at 22 Superfund sites and expedite over 100 other ongoing cleanups across the country.

[Read the press release](#)

EPA Announces Initial Program Design of Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund

On February 14, 2023, EPA announced initial guidance on the design of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) program, created by President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act. EPA published two Federal Assistance Listings outlining key parameters of the grant competitions that will ultimately award nearly \$27 billion to leverage private capital for clean energy and clean air investments across the country. Federal Assistance Listings are the first public notice requirement to implement a federal grant program. [Read the press release](#)

Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$550 Million to Advance Environmental Justice

On February 23, 2023, the Biden-Harris Administration announced the availability of \$550 million from President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act to expedite investments through the EPA's new Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmaking (EJ TCGM) program. This new, innovative program will fund up to 11 entities to serve as Grantmakers to community-based projects that reduce pollution. Selected Grantmakers will develop an efficient, simplified process so that organizations that historically have faced barriers to receiving funding can more seamlessly apply for grants that address environmental harms and risks.

The deadline to apply is May 31, 2023. EPA expects these grantmakers to begin awarding subgrants to community-based organizations no later than early 2024. [Read the press release](#)



ASK SBEAP

How can I learn about upcoming air quality rules that may impact my small business?

-Ms. Bea Ready

Dear Bea,

Air quality rules can vary significantly for different industry sectors. One quick place to check for a list of upcoming rules that could have potential applicability for small business is the new [Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards](#) page for small businesses.

This new resource, recently published by the EPA, provides a table listing of new and upcoming air quality rules as well as training resources. The [Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards](#), also known as OAQPS, is striving to build strong working relationships with small business partners nationally.

Two new rule updates that impact small businesses include the [Dry Cleaning National Emission Standard for Hazardous Air Pollutants](#), which was finalized Dec. 1, 2022, and [Paint Stripping and Surface Coating Operations at Area Sources](#), also known as the “6H rule,” which was finalized Nov. 1, 2022.

It can be challenging to keep up with new rules and updated guidance on existing rules, but these OAQPS resources as well as your state [Small Business Environmental Assistance Programs \(SBEAP\)](#) are here to assist small businesses with understanding their air quality, waste and water quality compliance obligations. State SBEAPs offer free and confidential assistance, while OAQPS is part of the EPA, a federal enforcement agency. If you have questions or need assistance with compliance, find your state SBEAP contact at nationalsbeap.org/states or by e-mailing info@nationalsbeap.org.



SPOTLIGHT

OAQPS New Small Business Assistance Webpage

EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards' (OAQPS) Small Business Assistance Program (SBAP) has launched its new webpage for all interested small business stakeholders. This webpage will provide a central place for states, EPA Regions, and small businesses to obtain information, tools, and training about OAQPS regulatory actions that may be of interest to small businesses. [Explore OAQPS SBAP's new webpage.](#)

Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$2.4 Billion for Clean Water Infrastructure Upgrades Through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

On February 24, 2023, EPA announced over \$2.4 billion from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for states, tribes, and territories through this year's Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF). The funding will support communities in upgrading essential water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure that protects public health and treasured water bodies across the nation. Nearly half of this funding will be available as grants or principal forgiveness loans helping underserved communities across America invest in water infrastructure, while creating good-paying jobs.

[Read the press release](#)

Biden-Harris Administration Announces Over \$250 Million to Fund Innovative Projects That Tackle Climate Pollution

On March 1, 2023, the Biden-Harris Administration made \$250 million available to develop innovative strategies to cut climate pollution and build clean energy economies. These planning grants, through the EPA, are the first tranche of funding going to states, local governments, tribes, and territories from the \$5 billion Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) program created by President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act. The program provides flexible planning resources for states, tribes, territories, and municipalities to develop and implement scalable solutions that protect people from pollution and advance environmental justice.

[Read the press release](#)



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<https://www.epa.gov/resources-small-businesses/asbo>



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