

SMALLBIZ@EPA

EPA's Asbestos and Small Business Ombuds Program

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE REGULATED SMALL BUSINESS COMMUNITY

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

► Feature

- [EPA's Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization Launches New...](#)

► Policy and Regulation

- [Biden-Harris Administration Issues Final Rule Requiring Replacement of Lead...](#)
- [EPA Issues Test Order for PFAS Used in Manufacturing Under National Testing...](#)
- [EPA Finalizes Cancellation of the...](#)
- [Phasedown of Hydrofluorocarbons: Management of Certain...](#)
- [Removal of Affirmative Defense Provisions from the National Emission Standards...](#)
- [EPA Strengthens Standards to Protect Children from Exposure to Lead Paint Dust](#)

► Key Dates and Opportunities

- [NEW Grant Opportunity: "Management of the 507 Program's Collaboration..."](#)
- [EPA Announces Funding Opportunities to Support Farmworker Communities](#)

- [EPA Proposes to Expand Public Access to Information on More Than 100 PFAS...](#)
- [EPA Announces \\$40 Million Now Available to Fund Environmental Justice...](#)

► Ask SBEAP

► Spotlight

- [EPA Awards \\$2.8 Million to Small Businesses for Developing...](#)
- [EPA Honors Home Builders and Raters for Providing Healthier Indoor Air](#)
- [Biden-Harris Administration Announces 48 Selectees for Nearly \\$19 Million in...](#)
- [EPA Releases 2023 Data Collected Under Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program](#)
- [EPA Completes Series of Enforcement Actions to Protect Communities from...](#)
- [Biden-Harris Administration Announces Selections for Nearly \\$3 Billion of...](#)



FEATURE

EPA's Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization Launches New Smart Steps to Sustainability Digital Guide and Website

On October 16, 2024, EPA's Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) launched the Smart Steps to Sustainability Digital Guide and website. This website developed by OSDBU's [Asbestos and Small Business Ombuds Program](#) (ASBO), features recent federal sustainability initiatives, resources of interest to the small business community, and sustainability planning tools to help busy small business owners create, monitor, and market their business' sustainability efforts. [View the new digital guide and sustainability planning tools.](#)



POLICY AND REGULATION

Biden-Harris Administration Issues Final Rule Requiring Replacement of Lead Pipes Within 10 Years, Announces Funding to Provide Clean Water to Schools and Homes

On October 8, 2024, the Biden-Harris Administration issued a final rule requiring drinking water systems across the country to identify and replace lead pipes within 10 years. The Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) also require more rigorous testing of drinking water and a lower threshold requiring communities to take action to protect people from lead exposure in water. In addition, the final rule improves communication within communities so that families are better informed about the risk of lead in drinking water, the location of lead pipes, and plans for replacing them. This final rule is part of the President's commitment to replace every lead pipe in the country within a decade, making sure that all communities can turn on the tap and drink clean water. [Read the press release on the final lead and copper rule.](#)

EPA Issues Test Order for PFAS Used in Manufacturing Under National Testing Strategy

On October 9, 2024, EPA issued the fifth Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Test Order requiring testing on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) under EPA's [National PFAS Testing Strategy](#), the latest action taken under [EPA's PFAS Strategic Roadmap](#) to confront contamination from "forever chemicals" nationwide. [Read the press release on the required test order.](#)

EPA Finalizes Cancellation of the Pesticide Dacthal

On October 22, 2024, EPA announced the cancellation of all products containing the pesticide dimethyl tetrachloroterephthalate (DCPA or Dacthal) under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). In making this decision, EPA relied on the best available science, which included robust studies demonstrating thyroid toxicity. For answers to frequently asked questions about DCPA, please see the [DCPA Questions and Answers webpage](#). [Read the press release for more information on this final decision.](#)

Phasedown of Hydrofluorocarbons: Management of Certain Hydrofluorocarbons and Substitutes Under the American Innovation and Manufacturing Act of 2020

EPA is issuing regulations to implement certain provisions of the American Innovation and Manufacturing Act of 2020. This rulemaking establishes an emissions reduction and

reclamation program for the management of hydrofluorocarbons that includes requirements for leak repair and installation and use of automatic leak detection systems for certain equipment using refrigerants containing hydrofluorocarbons and certain substitutes. In addition, EPA is establishing alternative Resource Conservation and Recovery Act standards for certain ignitable spent refrigerants being recycled for reuse. This rule is effective December 10, 2024. [Read the final rule and the new hydrofluorocarbons provisions in the Federal Register.](#)

Removal of Affirmative Defense Provisions from the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for the Oil and Natural Gas Production Facility and Natural Gas Transmission and Storage Facility Source Categories

EPA finalized amendments to the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) for the oil and gas industry issued under the Clean Air Act (CAA). Specifically, EPA finalized removal of the affirmative defense provisions in the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for both the Oil and Natural Gas Production source category and the Natural Gas Transmission and Storage source category. This final rule became effective October 22, 2024. [Read the NESHAP oil and gas amendments in the Federal Register.](#)

EPA Strengthens Standards to Protect Children from Exposure to Lead Paint Dust

On October 24, 2024, EPA finalized stronger requirements for identifying and cleaning up lead paint dust in pre-1978 homes and childcare facilities, in honor of National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week. The final standards are the latest action in President Biden's whole-of-government strategy to protect families and children from lead exposure. Children are especially vulnerable to the impacts of lead exposure, which can cause irreversible and life-long health effects, including behavioral problems, lower IQ, slowed growth and more. [Read the final rule for more on EPA's initiative to strengthen protections from lead exposure.](#)



KEY DATES AND OPPORTUNITIES

NEW Grant Opportunity: "Management of the 507 Program's Collaboration and Communication Activities"

EPA's Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) is seeking proposals from eligible entities to provide communication and collaborative support for the National 507 Program, including state Small Business Ombudsmen (SBO), state Small Business Technical Environmental Assistance Programs (SBEAP), and Compliance Advisory Panel (CAP) members from around the country. Broadly, this

funding opportunity seeks to support the management of the Nationalsbeap.org website, collaborative resources, national contact lists, and provide planning and hosting services for annual training activities to support the National 507 Program.

Applications must be submitted through Grants.gov no later than **Monday, December 2, 2024**. [Review the solicitation and apply for the OSDBU funding opportunity at Grants.gov](#). Review the [EPA OSDBU 2025 Grant Information Webinar](#).

EPA Announces Funding Opportunities to Support Farmworker Communities

On October 1, 2024, EPA announced three new funding opportunities to support pesticide safety education for farmworkers, training for health care providers to better address pesticide-related illness, and technical assistance to support managing these grants. A total of almost \$10 million will be awarded to at least four grantees to carry out this work over five years. Please see EPA's [Farmworker Training and Education Program for Pesticide Safety](#) website for more information on this agreement, eligibility and how to apply. [Read the press release for more information on this funding opportunity to support farmworkers communities](#).

EPA Proposes to Expand Public Access to Information on More Than 100 PFAS “Forever Chemicals” and Support Needed Pollution Prevention Efforts

On October 2, 2024, EPA proposed to add 16 individual per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and 15 PFAS categories representing more than 100 individual PFAS to the [Toxics Release Inventory \(TRI\)](#). It would also designate them as chemicals of special concern so they must meet more robust reporting requirements, including reporting even for small concentrations. EPA will accept public comments on the proposed rule for 60 days following publication in the *Federal Register* via docket EPA-HQ-TRI-2023-0538 at the [Regulations.gov](#) page. [Read the press release for more on this proposed rule and to submit comments](#).

EPA Announces \$40 Million Now Available to Fund Environmental Justice Projects Across the Mid-Atlantic

On October 11, 2024, the EPA Mid-Atlantic Region announced that \$40 million is available for subgrants to communities under EPA's Environmental Justice [Thriving Communities Grantmaking program](#). Applicants in the Mid-Atlantic region can now apply to Green and Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI) for subgrants of \$150,000 to \$350,000 to fund a wide range of environmental projects through one- or two-year grants. Organizations and communities can apply for subgrants [here](#). **Applications for two-year grants must be submitted by November 30, 2024.** [Read the press release for more on the Thriving Communities Grant Program and how to apply](#).



ASK SBEAP

Dear SBEAP:

As the environmental compliance manager at a miscellaneous coating manufacturing facility, I've recently become aware of the EPA's updated regulations regarding the "Once In, Always In" policy. I'd like to inquire about the eligibility of my facility for reclassification under these new guidelines.

Greg Thomas

Dear Greg,

According to the *Federal Register*:

"The EPA is finalizing requirements for sources that reclassify from major source status to area source status under the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) program. The requirements of this [final rule](#) apply to all sources that choose to reclassify after September 10, 2024. The final amendments include a requirement that sources subject to certain major source NESHAP used to meet the agency's obligations under the Clean Air Act (CAA) for seven specific persistent and bioaccumulative pollutants must remain subject to those NESHAP even if the sources reclassify to area source status. This requirement is based on the EPA's analysis of the statute and of comments received on the EPA's 2023 proposal to amend requirements for NESHAP-regulated sources that choose to reclassify from major to area source status."

The rule formalized the withdrawal of the OIAI (Once In, Always In) policy and codified that a major source can reclassify to area source status at any time upon reducing its emissions and potential to emit HAPs to below the [CAA section 112 major source thresholds](#) (10 tons per year of any one HAP or 25 tons per year of total HAP).

The rule also clarifies notification and reporting requirements. The EPA states:

"If a source voluntarily chooses to reclassify to area source status, it will no longer be subject to previously applicable major source NESHAP, which may result in compliance cost savings for the source. However, the source will be required to comply with any applicable area source NESHAP in response to reclassification, which could result in some compliance costs. Facilities will also have costs associated with applying to modify the facility's operating permit when they reclassify from major to area source status."

Industries that may consider reclassification include facilities that have modified their processes or products since becoming major sources, accepted operational limits after attaining major source status, or whose actual emissions are significantly below the major threshold as mentioned in [40 CFR 63.1\(c\)\(6\)](#). Small businesses contemplating

reclassification should contact their state representatives through the [SBEAP state contact](#) list or reach out to the [National SBEAP](#) directly at 800-578-8898. State SBEAPs can provide information on state-specific requirements and, in many cases, offer free, confidential assistance and support in making decisions.



SPOTLIGHT

EPA Awards \$2.8 Million to Small Businesses for Developing Environmental Technologies

On October 25, 2024, EPA announced \$2.8 million in funding to seven small businesses to further develop and commercialize their environmental technologies. With these awards from EPA's Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program, businesses will be tackling complex challenges including destroying PFAS, cleaning indoor air during wildfires, enhancing recycling systems, reducing food waste, and improving disaster response. For over 40 years, EPA's SBIR program has funded small businesses as they create environmental technologies and bring them to the marketplace. [Read the press release for the full list of SBIR Program funding recipients and winning projects.](#)

EPA Honors Home Builders and Raters for Providing Healthier Indoor Air

On October 3, 2024, EPA recognized nine home builders and three home raters with the [2024 Indoor AirPlus Leader Awards](#). These annual awards celebrate market-leading organizations that champion safer, healthier and more comfortable indoor environments through participation in and promotion of the [Indoor AirPlus program](#), which offers enhanced indoor air quality protections to new home buyers. Indoor AirPlus certified homes and apartments can help reduce the likelihood of common and serious health problems like infectious disease, heart disease, cancer, asthma, allergies, respiratory issues, headaches and more. [Read the press release for the full list of the 2024 Indoor AirPlus Leaders Award recipients.](#)

Biden-Harris Administration Announces 48 Selectees for Nearly \$19 Million in Grants to Help Businesses Prevent Pollution as Part of Investing in America Agenda

On October 30, 2024, EPA announced the selection of 48 applicants across the country that will collectively receive nearly \$19 million in grants to support states, Tribal Nations, and U.S. territories in providing technical assistance to businesses to develop and adopt pollution prevention (P2) practices in local communities. As a result of the investments from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, nearly half of the funds awarded

this year were made available with no cost share/match requirement. Between 2011-2022, EPA's Pollution Prevention program issued over 500 grants totaling more than \$54 million, which have helped businesses identify, develop and adopt P2 approaches. [Read the press release for more information and the full list of P2 grant recipients.](#)

EPA Releases 2023 Data Collected Under Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program

On October 15, 2024, EPA released 2023 Greenhouse Gas Data collected under the EPA's Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program (GHGRP). This is the 14th year of data collection for most sectors under the GHGRP. As directed by Congress, EPA collects annual, facility-level emissions data from major industrial sources, including power plants, oil and gas production, iron and steel mills, and landfills. [Read the press release for the full greenhouse gas data report and to register for the informational webinar.](#)

EPA Completes Series of Enforcement Actions to Protect Communities from Exposure to Coal Ash Pollution

On October 23, 2024, EPA announced agreements with four companies to settle violations of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act's regulations related to coal ash surface impoundments and landfills. The settlements, finalized in recent weeks, address facilities located in Alabama, Pennsylvania, Colorado and Puerto Rico, and require companies to take certain actions including addressing groundwater monitoring issues, conducting effective and protective groundwater cleanup, addressing emergency planning, and paying a fine. [Read the press release for more on these enforcement actions addressing coal ash pollution.](#)

Biden-Harris Administration Announces Selections for Nearly \$3 Billion of Investments in Clean Ports as Part of Investing in America Agenda

On October 29, 2024, as part of President Biden and Vice President Harris' Investing in America agenda, EPA announced the selection of [55 applicants](#) across 27 states and territories to receive nearly \$3 billion through EPA's [Clean Ports Program](#). These grants will support the deployment of zero-emission equipment, as well as infrastructure and climate and air quality planning projects at ports across the country. [Read the press release for more on the Clean Ports Program and these historic investments.](#)



Website :
epa.gov/resources-small-businesses/asbo



Phone :
(800)368-5888



Email :
asbo@epa.gov