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EPA's Asbestos and Small Business Ombuds Program

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE REGULATED SMALL BUSINESS COMMUNITY

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POLICY AND REGULATION

EPA Launches Biggest Deregulatory Action in U.S. History

On March 12, 2025, EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin announced the agency will undertake 31 historic actions in the greatest and most consequential day of deregulation in U.S. history, to advance President Trump's Day One executive orders and Power the Great American Comeback. Combined, these announcements represent the most momentous day in the history of the EPA. While accomplishing EPA's core mission of protecting the environment, the agency is committed to fulfilling President Trump's promise to unleash American energy, lower cost of living for Americans, revitalize the American auto industry, restore the rule of law, and give power back to states to make their own decisions. [For the full list of deregulatory actions and more information, view the press release.](#)

Trump EPA Announces Reconsideration of Air Rules Regulating American Energy, Manufacturing, Chemical Sectors (NESHAPs)

On March 12, 2025, EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin announced the agency will reconsider multiple National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAPs) affecting a broad range of American industrial sectors. In doing so, EPA is ensuring appropriate protections for human health and the environment based on the best record possible. The Trump Administration is considering a two-year compliance exemption via Section 112(i)(4) of the Clean Air Act for affected facilities while EPA goes through the rulemaking process. Specifically, EPA is initially reconsidering NESHAPs for integrated iron and steel manufacturing, rubber tire manufacturing, synthetic organic chemical manufacturing industry, commercial sterilizers for medical devices and spices, lime manufacturing, coke ovens, copper smelting, and taconite ore processing. [For more information and the full announcement, read the press release.](#)

Comment Periods Reopened for Two Proposed Rules Published by EPA

EPA has reopened the comment periods for 30 days for two proposed rules published in the *Federal Register* on January 17, 2025, and January 21, 2025. The comment periods for FRL-12309-01-OCSP (FR 2024-31406) ([90 FR 5795](#), January 17, 2025) and FRL-11799-01-OW (FR 2024-29239) ([90 FR 6967](#), January 21, 2025) are reopened. The original comment periods for two proposed rules closed February 18, 2025, and February 20, 2025. **Comments must be received by EPA on or before March 24, 2025.** Additional details about these actions can be found in the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section of the document. [Read more on the proposed rulemakings in the Federal Register and to make a public comment.](#)

Chlorpyrifos; Tolerance Revocation; Reopening of the Comment Period

On December 10, 2024, EPA issued a proposed rule to revoke all tolerances for residues of chlorpyrifos, except for those associated with the use of chlorpyrifos on the following crops: alfalfa, apple, asparagus, tart cherry, citrus, cotton, peach, soybean, strawberry, sugar beet, and spring and winter wheat. The proposal also addresses the request to revoke all chlorpyrifos tolerances contained in the September 12, 2007, petition submitted by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and Pesticide Action Network North America (PANNA). The comment period for the proposed rule, which closed on February 10, 2025, published at [89 FR 99184](#) (December 10, 2024), is reopened for an additional 30 days. **Comments must be received on or before March 24, 2025.** [Read more in the Federal Register on Chlorpyrifos tolerances and to make a public comment.](#)

Delay of Effective Date for 2 Final Regulations Published by EPA Between December 11, 2024, and January 6, 2025

In accordance with the memorandum of January 20, 2025, from President Donald J. Trump, entitled “Regulatory Freeze Pending Review,” this action temporarily delays until March 21, 2025, the effective date of the regulations listed in the table below.

Federal Register Citation	Title	Publication Date	Original Effective Date
89 FR 99727	Hazardous Waste Generator Improvements Rule, the Hazardous Waste Pharmaceuticals Rule, and the Definition of Solid Waste Rule; Technical Corrections	12/11/2024	2/10/2025
90 FR 573	Implementing Statutory Addition of Certain Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) to Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Beginning with Reporting Year 2025	1/6/2025	2/5/2025

EPA has identified two additional regulations that meet the criteria in the memo and may identify additional regulations in subsequent notices. As of February 5, 2025, **the effective dates of the rules published at [89 FR 99727](#) (December 11, 2024), and [90 FR 573](#) (January 6, 2025), are delayed to March 21, 2025.** [Read more on actions and temporary delay in the Federal Register.](#)

C.I. Pigment Violet 29 (PV29); Regulation Under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA); Reopening of Comment Period

On January 14, 2025, EPA proposed a regulation to address the unreasonable risk of injury to human health presented by C.I. Pigment Violet 29 (CASRN 81-33-4, also known as PV29), under its conditions of use as documented in EPA's January 2021 Risk Evaluation for PV29 and the September 2022 Revised Risk Determination for PV29 prepared under TSCA. This document reopens the comment period, which ended on February 28, 2025, for 60 days. The comment period for the document published on January 14, 2025, at [90 FR 3107](#) (FRL-8331-02-OCSPP) is reopened. **Comments must be received on or before April 29, 2025.** [Read more in the Federal Register on PV29 and to make a public comment.](#)

Deletion From the National Priorities List

On March 5, 2025, EPA announced the deletion of one site and partial deletion of three sites from the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL). The NPL, created under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) of 1980, as amended, is an appendix of the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP). The EPA and the States, through their designated State agencies, have determined that all appropriate response actions under CERCLA have been completed. However, this deletion does not preclude future actions under Superfund. **The document became effective March 5, 2025.** [Read more on the rule in the Federal Register and the revised Superfund National Priorities List.](#)



KEY DATES AND OPPORTUNITIES

EPA to Accept Nominations for Science Boards

On March 12, 2025, EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin announced that a notice will be published in the *Federal Register* seeking nominations for the Science Advisory Board (SAB) and Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC). Nominations will be accepted for 30 days following publication of the *Federal Register* notice. Following the nomination period, members will be carefully selected for their scientific expertise. Nominations can be submitted on each board's respective website. [To learn more about the EPA SAB and to submit a nomination, visit the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee \(CASAC\) homepage.](#)



ASK SBEAP

Dear Ask SBEAP:

As the owner of a small cabinet manufacturing shop, I've become aware of potential respiratory health issues related to smoke from my burn pit. I'm hesitant to contact the state regulatory office due to concerns about being prohibited from burning. In the past, I have used my burn pit to dispose of wood remnants, sawdust, pallets, and cardboard. I'm trying to determine whether my burning practices pose a regulatory issue, a health concern, or both.

Sincerely, Robert Woodruff

Dear Mr. Woodruff:

Open burning of industrial waste is both a regulatory and a public health concern! The open burning of "industrial solid waste" is generally prohibited. Materials like wood remnants, sawdust, pallets, and cardboard are likely classified as industrial solid waste. With a few exceptions, the federal regulation, [40 CFR Part 257-3.7\(a\)](#), cites "facility or practice shall not engage in open burning of residential, commercial, institutional or industrial solid waste. This requirement does not apply to infrequent burning of agricultural wastes in the field, silvicultural wastes for forest management purposes, land-clearing debris, diseased trees, debris from emergency clean-up operations, and ordinance."

While certain states may permit the limited burning of specific industrial materials for disposal in pits, barrels, or homemade incinerators, this practice necessitates obtaining explicit written authorization or a specialized permit from the relevant regulatory authority. Your state's [SBEAP](#) can provide valuable assistance in navigating this process.

From a public health perspective, open burning releases harmful chemical and particulate matter that can cause eye, nose, and throat irritation at a minimum and for people with conditions such as asthma, emissions from open burning can result in emergency room visits. Your [state SBEAP](#) can also assist in identifying the appropriate regulatory body, which may be your state environmental control agency or a local government entity, such as the city or county fire marshal.



SPOTLIGHT

Administrator Zeldin Directs Enforcement Resources to Align with Executive Orders and EPA's Core Mission

On March 12, 2025, EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin announced updated enforcement discretion to allow the agency to better focus on its core mission and Powering the Great American Comeback. Specifically, he announced that EPA will immediately revise National Enforcement and Compliance Initiatives to ensure that enforcement does not discriminate based on race and socioeconomic status (as it has under environmental justice initiatives) or shut down energy production and that it focuses on the most pressing health and safety issues. This focus on EPA's established mission will also provide predictability as EPA considers changes to regulations, thereby lowering costs for Americans and relieving the economy of potentially unnecessary bureaucratic burdens. [For the full announcement and more information read the press release.](#)

EPA Approves State of Texas Plan to Improve Air Quality in San Antonio Area

On March 13, 2025, EPA announced approval of the state of Texas’s clean-air plan, or State Implementation Plan (SIP), to address vehicle emissions and improve air quality in the San Antonio area. The plan calls for the state to implement vehicle inspection and maintenance requirements in Bexar County. This approval supports Administrator Lee Zeldin’s commitment to improve air quality through timely processing of SIP revisions while working with states to prioritize cooperative federalism. The implementation of the inspection and maintenance program in the San Antonio area is important to help meet Clean Air Act requirements through the identification and maintenance of vehicles with malfunctioning emission control systems. [For the full SIP of the San Antonio area and more information, read the press release.](#)

EPA Helps NJ and NY Businesses and Municipalities Meet Environmental Goals

On March 12, 2025, the EPA released five success stories on an EPA regional office that helped businesses and municipalities across New York and New Jersey protect human health, improve local infrastructure and foster strong economic growth by offering direct technical assistance. From helping businesses navigate complex environmental regulations to supporting local governments in critical infrastructure upgrades, EPA’s proactive approach is making a tangible difference across the region – preventing costly violations and delivering cleaner air and safer water. [Read the press release for the full article and how EPA has helped businesses and municipalities navigate regulations and improve environmental compliance.](#)

EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin Announces EPA’s “Powering the Great American Comeback” Initiative

On February 4, 2025, EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin announced the agency’s Powering the Great American Comeback Initiative, to achieve the agency’s mission while energizing the greatness of the American economy. This plan outlines the agency’s priorities under the leadership of President Trump and Administrator Zeldin. The newly announced Powering the Great American Comeback initiative consists of five pillars that will guide the EPA’s work over the first 100 days and beyond. [Read more on this initiative and Administrator’s announcement.](#)

EPA Announces Path Forward on Chemical Reviews to Protect Public Health, Increase Efficiency and Follow the Law

On March 10, 2025, EPA announced its intent to reconsider the regulation governing the review of chemicals already in commerce by initiating a rulemaking that will ensure the agency can efficiently and effectively protect human health and the environment and follow the law.

Consistent with [President Trump's Executive Order 14219](#) requiring the review of regulations to ensure consistency with Administration policy and agencies' statutory authority, EPA has completed a review of the Biden-era regulation, Procedures for Chemical Risk Evaluation under TSCA (2024 Risk Evaluation Framework Rule), which outlines the process EPA must follow when conducting chemical risk evaluations. After completing this review and considering public comments and concerns, including those from other Federal agencies, the agency intends to initiate further rulemaking in the near future that will reexamine multiple aspects of this rule for consistency with the law and Administration policy.

In this rulemaking, EPA will rely on its statutory authority as dictated by Congress in TSCA and the Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act, which Administrator Zeldin voted for while a Member of Congress. This includes reviewing whether the approach taken by the Biden Administration to make a single risk determination for a chemical is consistent with TSCA. EPA will also include, among additional considerations, whether the agency must evaluate all conditions of use of a chemical at the same time in the three years generally allotted by Congress to conduct this review. EPA will provide updates as more information is available including the public comment period on any new, proposed rule. [Read the full chemical reviews announcement in the press release.](#)

Certain New Chemicals or Significant New Uses; Statements of Findings for September, October, November, and December 2024

On February 24, 2025, EPA published a Statement of Findings. The Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) requires EPA to publish in the *Federal Register* a statement of its findings after its review of certain TSCA submissions when EPA makes a finding that a new chemical substance or significant new use is not likely to present an unreasonable risk of injury to health or the environment. Such statements apply to premanufacture notices (PMNs), microbial commercial activity notices (MCANs), and significant new use notices (SNUNs) submitted to EPA under TSCA. This document presents statements of findings made by EPA on such submissions during the period from September 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024. [Read more on TSCA's Statement of Findings in the Federal Register.](#)



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