

# SMALLBIZ@EPA

EPA's Asbestos and Small Business Ombuds Program

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE REGULATED SMALL BUSINESS COMMUNITY

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## POLICY AND REGULATION

### Extension of 2024 Compliance Reporting Deadline for the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) Program

EPA is extending the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) compliance reporting deadline for the 2024 compliance year. EPA is also making several minor amendments and technical corrections to other RFS provisions. This rule became effective on March 13, 2025. The incorporation by reference of certain publications listed in this regulation is approved by the Director of the Federal Register as of March 13, 2025. [Read more on the final rulemaking in the Federal Register.](#)

## **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. EPA will provide updates as more information is available, including the public comment period on any new, proposed rule. [Read more on the chemicals review process in the press release.](#)

## **Administrator Zeldin Announces EPA Will Revise Waters of the United States Rule**

On March 12, 2025, EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin announced that EPA will work with the United States Army Corps of Engineers to deliver on President's Trump's promise to review the definition of "waters of the United States." The agencies will move quickly to ensure that a revised definition follows the law, reduces red tape, cuts overall permitting costs, and lowers the cost of doing business in communities across the country while protecting the nation's navigable waters from pollution. [Read more on this initiative in the press release.](#)

## **EPA Will Revise Wastewater Regulations for Oil and Gas Extraction to Help Unleash American Energy**

On March 12, 2025, EPA announced that it will modernize outdated regulations on wastewater discharges for oil and gas extraction facilities to lower energy costs while supporting environmentally sustainable water reuse. This action advances the goals of President Trump's [Unleashing American Energy Executive Order](#). The agency's review will evaluate modern technologies and management strategies to provide regulatory flexibility for oil and gas wastewater – also known as produced water – to be treated for beneficial reuse, including for Artificial Intelligence and data center cooling, rangeland irrigation, fire control, power generation, and ecological needs. [Read more on wastewater regulations and this initiative in the press release.](#)

## **Update on the Status of TSCA Risk Management Rule for TCE**

The EPA is providing an update on the effective date of the Toxic Substances Control Act final risk management rule for trichloroethylene (TCE). On December 17, 2024, EPA issued the final rule prohibiting all uses of TCE, most of which would be prohibited within

one year, including TCE manufacture and processing for most commercial and all consumer products. The rule was originally intended to take effect on January 16, 2025.

In accordance with the memorandum of January 20, 2025, from President Trump, entitled “Regulatory Freeze Pending Review,” EPA temporarily delayed the effective date of the rule until March 21, 2025, via [Federal Register notice](#) published on January 28, 2025. EPA expects to soon publish a Federal Register notice further postponing the effective date of all the requirements associated with TSCA section 6(g) exemptions in the final TCE rule for 90 days until June 20, 2025, pending judicial review.

[Read a prepublication version of the Federal Register Notice and learn more about the final risk management rule for TCE.](#)



## KEY DATES AND OPPORTUNITIES

### **Comment Period Extension: National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Chemical Manufacturing Area Sources Technology Review**

On January 22, 2025, EPA proposed a rule titled “National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Chemical Manufacturing Area Sources Technology Review.” The EPA is extending the comment period on this proposed rule, which was scheduled to close on March 24, 2025. The comment period will now remain open until April 14, 2025, to allow additional time for stakeholders to review and comment on the proposal. Written comments must now be received on or before **April 14, 2025**. [Read more on the proposed rulemaking and make a public comment in the Federal Register.](#)

### **Reopening of Comment Period: Review of New Source Performance Standards for Stationary Combustion Turbines and Stationary Gas Turbines**

On December 13, 2024, EPA proposed amendments to the new source performance standards (NSPS) for new, modified, and reconstructed stationary combustion turbines and stationary gas turbines. The EPA is reopening the public comment period for this proposed rule to allow additional time for stakeholders to review and comment on the proposal. The comment period for the proposed rule published on December 13, 2024, at [89 FR 101306](#), is reopened. Comments must be received on or before **April 15, 2025**. [Read more on the proposed rulemaking and make a public comment in the Federal Register.](#)

## **Extension of Submission Deadline for Certain Existing Chemicals; Request to Submit Unpublished Health and Safety Data Under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA)**

EPA is amending the deadline for reporting pursuant to the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Health and Safety Data Reporting rule, which requires manufacturers (including importers) of 16 specified chemical substances to report certain lists and copies of unpublished health and safety studies to EPA. Specifically, EPA is amending the deadline from **March 13, 2025, to June 11, 2025**, for one of the 16 chemical substances (vinyl chloride) and to **September 9, 2025**, for the remaining 15 chemical substances. [Read more on the proposed rulemaking and make a public comment in the Federal Register.](#)



**Dear Ask SBEAP:**

***I am a small business owner, and I'm planning to undertake a significant remodel of the commercial building from which my business operates. The building was constructed in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, and I am concerned that it may contain asbestos. What are my responsibilities, and what precautions should I take as a small business owner before starting the renovation to ensure I comply with EPA regulations and protect the health of my workers?***

***Sincerely, Augustus Handler***

Dear Mr. Handler,

Thank you for reaching out with your question. It's wise to be proactive about potential asbestos-containing materials, or ACM, before starting your renovation project. The EPA provides information and regulations concerning asbestos in buildings.

Firstly, it's important to understand that the [National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants \(NESHAP\)](#) under the Clean Air Act specify work practices for asbestos during renovations of all structures, installations and buildings, excluding residential buildings that have four or fewer dwelling units. Since you mentioned a commercial building, these regulations likely apply to your situation. The regulations require the owner of the building or the operator to notify the appropriate state agency before any demolition, or before any renovations of buildings that could contain a certain threshold

amount of asbestos or asbestos-containing material. Contact an asbestos professional to test your building for any ACMs before proceeding.

Furthermore, the [Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act \(AHERA\)'s Model Accreditation Plan \(MAP\)](#) requires that asbestos professionals (including any worker, contractor or supervisor, inspector, management planner or project designer) working with asbestos-containing building materials in a school, public or commercial building be accredited under a training program that is at least as stringent as the EPA Model Accreditation Plan (MAP). This highlights the importance of using qualified and accredited professionals if you suspect the presence of asbestos.

The EPA also provides guidance on developing and maintaining an [Operations and Maintenance \(O&M\) program](#) to manage ACMs in buildings. An O&M program is a formulated plan of training, cleaning, work practices and surveillance to maintain ACMs in good condition within buildings. The goal is to minimize exposure of all building occupants to asbestos fibers.

Keep in mind that contacting your state and local environmental agencies is essential to ensure full compliance. You can reach out to your [Small Business Environmental Assistance Program \(SBEAP\) state contact](#) 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. The EPA's Asbestos and Small Business Ombudsman (ASBO) may also be a good resource should you need additional support with asbestos or regulatory compliance. You can contact the ASBO hotline at 1-800-368-5888 or by email ([asbo@epa.gov](mailto:asbo@epa.gov)) to address small business and asbestos questions or complaints. [View ASBO's Frequently Asked Questions for more information.](#)



## **EPA Administrator Zeldin Addresses Environmental Council of States' 2025 Spring Meeting, Highlights Commitment to Cooperative Federalism**

EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin addressed the Environmental Council of the States' 2025 Spring Meeting, which convenes state environmental agency heads, highlighting his commitment to cooperative federalism. Administrator Zeldin also discussed permitting reform, PFAS, revising "waters of the United States," and the agency's emergency response and disaster recovery efforts in East Palestine, Los Angeles, Western North Carolina, and elsewhere. Administrator Zeldin announced the Powering the Great

American Comeback initiative in his first week at the agency. The initiative consists of five pillars that will guide the EPA's work over the first 100 days and beyond. It will help the agency advance its core mission of protecting human health and the environment while energizing the greatness of the American economy. [Read more on the meeting highlights in the press release.](#)

### **EPA Announces Path Forward on National Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter (PM2.5) to Aid Manufacturing, Small Businesses**

EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin announced the agency is revisiting the PM2.5 National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), which has raised serious concerns from states across the country and served as a major obstacle to permitting. EPA is also announcing that it will soon release guidance to increase flexibility on NAAQS implementation, reforms to New Source Review, and direction on permitting obligations. [Read more on the PM2.5 NAAQS announcement in the press release.](#)

### **EPA Announces Reconsideration of Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program**

EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin announced the agency is reconsidering the mandatory Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program (GHGRP). The program requires over 8,000 facilities and suppliers in the United States to calculate and submit their emissions reporting annually. It costs hundreds of millions of dollars that could be better used to improve and upgrade environmental controls or other items at these facilities to have a noticeable impact on the improvement of the environment. [Read more on the Administrator's announcement in the press release.](#)

### **EPA to Reconsider Biden-Harris MATS Regulation That Targeted Coal-Fired Power Plants to be Shut Down**

EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin announced the agency will reconsider the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS) from the previous administration that drew a lawsuit from 23 states. The Trump Administration is considering a two-year compliance exemption via Section 112(i)(4) of the Clean Air Act for affected power plants while EPA goes through the rulemaking process. [Read more on the MATS regulation in the press release.](#)

## **Administrator Zeldin Begins Restructuring Regional Haze Program**

EPA is reconsidering its implementation of the Clean Air Act's Regional Haze Program. EPA intends to review its regulations implementing the Regional Haze Program to ensure that it fulfills Congressional intent, is based on current scientific information, and reflects recent improvements in air quality. [Read more on the Regional Haze Program and its restructuring in the press release.](#)

## **EPA Announces Swift Actions on Coal Ash Program (Coal Combustion Residuals)**

On March 12, 2025, EPA announced that it is prioritizing several timely actions on coal ash, including state permit program reviews and updates to the coal ash regulations. The agency will work with several states on preparing their regulations and applications. EPA encourages state agencies to pursue oversight of coal ash management within their borders. The agency is committed to working with state partners as they establish coal ash programs tailored to their unique circumstances that are also protective of human health and the environment. [Read more on the Coal Ash Program and this initiative in the press release.](#)



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