

SMALLBIZ@EPA

EPA's Asbestos and Small Business Ombuds Program

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE REGULATED SMALL BUSINESS COMMUNITY

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EPA's Small Business Ombudsman Support

Have a question about a SmallBiz@EPA article or EPA press release? Need help getting to the best regulatory contact, web information, or have a small business item to add to SmallBiz@EPA? Contact the [ASBO Program](#) through our live hotline service (M-F, 8:30AM – 4:30PM ET) or via [email](#). We're here to help with your small business compliance/enforcement questions and general asbestos concerns.

Contact Us



ASBO Hotline: 800-368-5888



Email: asbo@EPA.gov



Newcomer SBEAP Training Invitation

The Education and Website Subcommittees of the National Steering Committee for the National Network of State Small Business Environmental Assistance Program (SBEAP) are hosting a free virtual [Newcomer Training](#) on **Tuesday, July 29 from 1:00-4:30 p.m. ET**. If you are new to a state technical assistance program, or are a new small business ombudsman, this training is meant for you! Come one, come all to learn something new and to serve, support and strengthen your SBEAP activities.

[Check out the event agenda](#) on the [Nationalsbeap.org](https://nationalsbeap.org) Events page and register for the training by emailing info@nationalsbeap.org.

Important Grant and Website Updates: Grant Close Out, Website Maintenance After July 31

Please be aware that the National Small Business Environmental Assistance Program (SBEAP) website (<https://nationalsbeap.org>) will have limited or no content maintenance after July 31, 2025, when its five-year grant funding cycle is scheduled to expire. The grant renewal process, which was underway, has been cancelled until further notice. As a result, the information and content you find on the National SBEAP website may no longer be current. We apologize for any inconvenience. For questions regarding the discontinued funding, please reach out to your regional representative or [contact EPA's Small Business Ombudsman Office](#).



Certain Existing Chemicals; Request to Submit Unpublished Health and Safety Data Under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA); Extension of Submission Deadline

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 submit lists and copies of certain unpublished health and safety studies to the EPA. Specifically, the **EPA is**

amending the reporting deadline for all 16 chemical substances subject to the rule to May 22, 2026, through final action. [Read more on the final TSCA rule and submission extension in the Federal Register.](#)

Standards of Performance for New Stationary Sources and Emission Guidelines for Existing Sources: Other Solid Waste Incineration Units Review

This action finalizes the periodic review by the EPA of the emissions standards and other requirements for Other Solid Waste Incineration (OSWI) units in the OSWI New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) and Emission Guidelines (EG). The EPA is finalizing applicability-related and definitional changes; changes to OSWI subcategories and the standards for the new subcategories; changes to the startup, shutdown, and malfunction (SSM) provisions; and changes to testing, monitoring, recordkeeping, and reporting requirements. We are also making other miscellaneous technical and editorial changes to the regulatory text. This final rule is effective August 29, 2025. [Read more on the final emission standards and other requirements for solid waste incineration in the Federal Register.](#)

Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances (23-3.5e)

EPA is issuing significant new use rules (SNURs) under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) for certain chemical substances that were the subject of premanufacture notices (PMNs) and are also subject to an Order issued by EPA pursuant to TSCA. The SNURs require persons to notify EPA at least 90 days before commencing the manufacture (defined by statute to include import) or processing of any of these chemical substances for an activity that is designated as a significant new use in the SNUR. This rule is effective on August 12, 2025. [Read more on the final SNURs rule in the Federal Register.](#)



KEY DATES AND OPPORTUNITIES

EPA Proposes Changes to Clean Air Requirements for Power Plants

On June 17, 2025, the EPA announced it will repeal specific amendments to the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) for Coal- and Oil-

Fired Electric Utility Steam Generating Units (EGUs). The agency will repeal the following three regulations:

1. The filterable particulate matter (fPM) emission standard for existing coal-fired EGUs;
2. The compliance demonstration requirement for the fPM emission standard for all coal- and oil-fired EGUs; and
3. The mercury emission standard for existing lignite-fired EGUs.

The agency is accepting public comments on the amendments until August 11, 2025. [Read more on the changes to the clean air requirements for power plants and make a public comment.](#)

Proposed Information Collection Request; Comment Request; Air Emissions Reporting Requirements (Renewal)

The EPA is planning to submit an information collection request (ICR), “Air Emissions Reporting Requirements (Renewal)” (EPA ICR No. 2170.09, OMB Control No. 2060-0580) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act. Before doing so, EPA is soliciting public comments on specific aspects of the proposed information collection. This action is a proposed renewal of the current ICR, which expires on October 31, 2025. **This notice allows 60 days for public comments and comments are due by August 4, 2025.** [Read more on the ICR notice in the Federal Register and make a public comment.](#)

EPA Requests Comment on Draft Risk Evaluations for DBP and DEHP

On June 5, 2025, the EPA released the draft risk evaluations for DiButyl Phthalate (DBP) and Diethylhexyl Phthalate (DEHP) for public comment. DBP and DEHP are used primarily as plasticizers in polyvinyl chloride (PVC), as well as in adhesives, sealants, paints, coatings, rubbers, and non-PVC plastics. EPA seeks feedback on the draft risk evaluations for both DBP and DEHP, including citations and data from all potentially impacted parties. **Comments are due on the Draft Risk Evaluation by August 5, 2025.** [Read more on the draft risk evaluation and make a public comment.](#)

Extension of Postponement of Effectiveness for Certain Provisions of Trichloroethylene (TCE); Regulation Under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA)

The EPA is extending the postponement of the effective date of certain regulatory provisions of the final rule entitled “Trichloroethylene (TCE); Regulation Under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA)” for an additional 60 days. Specifically, this postponement applies to the conditions imposed on the uses with TSCA exemptions. **As of June 20, 2025, EPA further postpones the effective date until August 19, 2025.** [Read more on the postponed TSCA rule in the Federal Register.](#)



ASK SBEAP

Dear SBEAP:

I work in the facilities department at a small school, and I was recently asked to dispose of several confiscated vape devices. Could you tell me how to properly manage dispose of these items?

Sincerely, Velma Vapor

Dear Ms. Vapor:

Vape devices, or e-cigarettes, may contain a lithium-ion battery and/or liquid nicotine. Both of these components are commonly considered a hazardous waste when being disposed.

In regard to lithium-ion batteries, the EPA states in its [RCRA Online Document #14957](#): “When they are disposed, most lithium-ion (secondary batteries) and lithium primary batteries in use today are likely to be hazardous waste due to ignitability and reactivity (D001 and D003). With the exception of households, generators of lithium battery hazardous waste are responsible for determining whether the spent lithium batteries they generate are hazardous waste and, if they are, the generators need to manage the batteries accordingly under hazardous waste requirements.”

In regard to liquid nicotine, the EPA states in its description to [RCRA Online Document #14850](#): “Nicotine is a commercial chemical product listed in 40 CFR 261.33(e) and is an acute hazardous waste (EPA waste code P075) when disposed. EPA has concluded that nicotine is the sole active ingredient of the e-liquid in e-cigarettes and thus a commercial chemical product, e-cigarettes are not manufactured articles, and e-

cigarette cartridges are considered containers of nicotine. Therefore, e-cigarettes may be regulated as acute hazardous waste P075 when disposed.”

Vape devices that contain both a D001 and D003 lithium-ion battery and P075 liquid nicotine would ultimately carry the D001, D003 and P075 waste codes. To reduce the total amount of waste that needs to be managed, it is acceptable to remove and independently manage any lithium-ion batteries that are designed to be removed. For additional information, see the EPA’s webpage on [vape waste management for schools and small businesses](#). Your state Small Business Environmental Assistance Program (SBEAP) may be able to help. To find your SBEAP, visit the [National SBEAP state contact map](#) or call 800-578-8898.



SPOTLIGHT

EPA Helps Small Businesses Understand Hazardous Waste Rules and Avoid Costly Mistakes

EPA is encouraging businesses, schools, and other small facilities to double-check how they handle hazardous waste to avoid costly violations. In recent years, EPA has found that many facilities are unknowingly violating federal hazardous waste rules. A common issue is shipping regulated amounts of hazardous waste without first obtaining the required EPA identification number. These mistakes often stem from confusion about how much hazardous waste a facility generates and what that means for compliance. Many facilities—such as auto shops, dental and medical clinics, printers, schools, and laboratories—may unknowingly exceed this threshold. Even facilities that generate less than 100 kilograms of hazardous waste per month are subject to specific [requirements](#). [Read more on how EPA can help your small business reduce its waste and stay in environmental compliance.](#)

CEQ Withdraws Guidance on Consideration of Climate Change in NEPA Reviews

On May 28, 2025, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) withdrew its interim guidance titled “National Environmental Policy Act Guidance on Consideration of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change.” The interim guidance, originally issued on January 9, 2023, was meant to assist federal agencies in their consideration of the effects of greenhouse gas emissions and climate change when conducting National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) environmental reviews. In 2023, the U.S. Small Business Administration’s Office of Advocacy objected to CEQ issuing the interim

guidance, noting that the agency had failed to review comments filed by small entities. The withdrawal of the guidance is effective immediately. [Read more on the revised NEPA climate considerations and review process.](#)

EPA and Army Wrap Up Initial Listening Sessions, Move Toward Proposal to Revise 2023 Definition of WOTUS

EPA and U.S. Department of the Army have completed a robust series of listening sessions intended to seek input from stakeholders on real-world and practical experience with Clean Water Act (CWA) programs and requirements that rely on the definition of “waters of the United States,” or WOTUS. Through these sessions, the agencies gained invaluable insights representing on-the-ground perspectives of farmers and ranchers, homebuilders and construction contractors, miners and energy producers, manufacturers, states, Tribes, elected officials, environmental groups and the general public. [Read more on the proposed waters of the United States rule in the press release.](#)

Interior Department Seeks Opportunities for Regulatory Reform

On May 16, 2025, the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) published a Request for Information (RFI) on Regulatory Reform in the *Federal Register*. DOI seeks comments and information to assist the Department and its operating agencies in identifying existing regulations, guidance, paperwork requirements, and other regulatory obligations that can be modified or repealed, consistent with law. DOI seeks to ensure that its administrative actions do not undermine the national interest, and it achieves meaningful burden reduction while continuing to meet statutory obligations, advance American energy independence, and ensure the responsible stewardship of the nation’s public lands and resources. [Read more on the DOI request for information and make a public comment.](#)

EPA Proposes New Renewable Fuel Standards to Strengthen U.S. Energy Security, Support Rural America, and Expand Production of Domestic Fuels

On June 13, 2025, the EPA announced a major step forward to strengthen American energy security and support American farmers by proposing Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) volume requirements for 2026 and 2027. This action represents a critical and much-needed step in the evolution of this program. This is the 20th anniversary of the RFS program. Under President Trump’s leadership, EPA’s “Set 2” proposal ensures the RFS program remains true to Congress’ original intent of increasing the use of

homegrown American biofuels, unleashing American energy, and supporting rural economies. [*Read more on the renewable fuel standard proposal in the press release.*](#)



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