



SMALLBIZ@EPA

EPA's Asbestos and Small Business Ombuds Program

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE REGULATED SMALL BUSINESS COMMUNITY

March 2026

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

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FEATURE

SmallBiz@EPA Delivery and Content Updates

EPA's Asbestos and Small Business Ombuds (ASBO) Program is excited to announce your SmallBiz@EPA edition will now be delivered each month through the GovDelivery subscription service. Be sure you are officially [subscribed](#) to our newsletter and add "ASBOBulletin@govdelivery.epa.gov" to your safe sender list so you don't miss a monthly edition!

NEW! We've added a new section to our monthly newsletter called "[Asbestos Updates](#)". Each month this section will highlight general asbestos content, resources, and regulatory updates as it relates to the Asbestos Ombudsman role to provide asbestos assistance under the ASBO Program.



POLICY AND REGULATION

Rescission of the Greenhouse Gas Endangerment Finding and Motor Vehicle Greenhouse Gas Emission Standards Under the Clean Air Act

EPA rescinded the Administrator's 2009 findings of contribution and endangerment and repealing all greenhouse gas (GHG) emission standards for light-duty, medium-duty, and heavy-duty vehicles and engines to effectuate the best reading of Clean Air Act (CAA) section 202(a)(1). In finalizing this rule, EPA carefully considered and reevaluated the legal foundation of the 2009 Endangerment Finding and the text of the Clean Air Act (CAA) in light of subsequent legal developments and court decisions. The agency concludes that Section 202(a) of the CAA does not provide statutory authority for EPA to prescribe motor vehicle and engine emission standards in the manner previously utilized, including for the purpose of addressing global climate change, and therefore has no legal basis for the Endangerment Finding and resulting regulations. The action also eliminates all off-cycle credits, including for the almost universally hated start-stop feature. EPA's historic move restores consumer choice, makes more affordable vehicles available for American families, and decreases the cost of living on all products by lowering the cost of trucks.

Effective Date: April 20, 2026.

[Read more on the final rule in the Federal Register](#)

National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Coal- and Oil-Fired Electric Utility Steam Generating Units: Final Repeal

EPA is finalizing the repeal of specific amendments to the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) for Coal- and Oil-Fired Electric Utility Steam Generating Units (EGUs), commonly referred to as the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS), that were promulgated on May 7, 2024. By doing so, EPA will enforce existing, highly effective and robust MATS requirements, which will ensure public health and the environment are protected without compromising America's energy or economic prosperity. The final rule is expected to save an estimated \$670 million, savings Americans will see in the form of lower everyday living costs.

Effective Date: April 27, 2026.

[Read more on the final NESHAP rule in the Federal Register](#)

Implementing Statutory Addition of Certain Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) to the Toxics Release Inventory Beginning With Reporting Year 2026

EPA is updating the list of chemicals subject to toxic chemical release reporting under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) and the Pollution Prevention Act (PPA). Specifically, this action updates the regulations to identify one perfluoroalkyl substance, sodium perfluorohexanesulfonate, that must be reported pursuant to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (FY 2020 NDAA) enacted on December 20, 2019.

Accordingly, this PFAS is reportable beginning with the 2026 reporting year with reports due July 1, 2027.

Effective Date: March 30, 2026.

[Read more on the final PFAS rule in the Federal Register](#)



KEY DATES & OPPORTUNITIES

EPA Announces Path Forward to Revamp the Clean School Bus Program and Seeks Public Input

On February 19, 2026, EPA announced the path forward to revamp the Clean School Bus (CSB) Program to provide school districts with increased choice and affordable options for school buses. The updates to the program will help bring back American auto jobs and unleash American energy production—key pillars to EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin's [Powering the Great American Comeback Initiative](#). The agency is issuing a Request for Information (RFI) to seek feedback from fleet operators, manufacturers, school officials, and energy producers on a broad range of fuel options that school bus sectors could use.

[Comment must be received on or before April 6, 2026.](#)

[Read more on the CBS Program and make a public comment.](#)

EPA Extends Public Comment Period on Proposed Cleanup Plan for Pierson's Creek Superfund Site

EPA is extending the public comment period for its proposed plan to clean up contaminated sediment, soil and industrial waste in the Pierson's Creek Superfund Site, a 1.5-mile waterway that runs through an industrial area in Newark, New Jersey. The comment period will now remain open through March 19, 2026, to accommodate community members seeking additional time to review the proposal.

Comment must be received on or before March 19, 2026.

More information can be found on the [Pierson's Creek Superfund Site profile page](#) and the public may submit written comments to Brandon Holsten, Remedial Project Manager, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2890 Woodbridge Avenue, Edison, NJ 08837 or by email to Holsten.Brandon@epa.gov.

Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed Renewal Collection and Request for Comment; Confidential Business Information Claims Under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA)

In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, this document announces the availability of and solicits public comment on the following Information Collection Request (ICR) that EPA is planning to submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB): Confidential Business Information Claims under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). This ICR represents a renewal of an existing ICR that is currently approved through August 31, 2026. Before submitting the ICR to OMB for review and approval under the PRA, EPA is soliciting comments on specific aspects of the information collection that is summarized in this document. The ICR and accompanying material are available in the docket for public review and comment.

Comments must be received on or before April 27, 2026.

[Read more about the ICR Federal Register and make a public comment.](#)



DISCOVER SBEAP

As required under [Section 507 of the 1990 CAA Amendments](#), state Small Business Environmental Assistance Programs (SBEAPs) partner with EPA in providing regulatory compliance assistance to small businesses. Each month, a different state SBEAP is highlighted in the SmallBiz@EPA to help promote cooperative federalism and the essential compliance assistance services SBEAPs provide around the country to the local small business community.

New Mexico Discover SBEAP

Today's air quality regulations can be extensive and complex for a small business owner, with penalties for non-compliance that can be both burdensome and expensive. The [New Mexico Small Business Environmental Assistance Program \(SBEAP\)](#), created and housed under the [New Mexico Environment Department Air Quality Bureau](#), educates and provides free and confidential assistance to [qualified small businesses](#) to help them better understand both state and federal air regulations, and how to remain in compliance with their own air quality permits. Some small businesses may even qualify for reduced state permit fees when applicable.

SBEAP Services in New Mexico

Participants in the NM SBEAP Program receive guidance on business operations that are subject to federal and local air quality laws and regulations. The Program provides both technical and general guidance in areas of regulatory compliance, including:

- Help in determining if your business and activities are subject to air quality regulations,
- Assistance with air quality source registration and permit application submittals,
- Site visit evaluations for air quality permit compliance assistance,
- Information and guidance on regulatory compliance and enforcement actions, and
- Assistance with emission inventory reporting and recordkeeping

For 20 years, the New Mexico SBEAP program has been led by Ms. Rosanne Sanchez. It is with great sadness we share Rosanne passed away on January 1, 2026. Rosanne, a former supervisor at the Air Quality Bureau, was a valued member of the New Mexico Environmental Department and was a steadfast leader of the Small Business Assistance Program, assisting the small business community through various complex processes, with both ease and determination. Roseanne was always a strong and smiling presence for her small business customers, in addition to her New Mexico colleagues and National SBEAP peers. Roseanne will be fondly remembered and deeply missed.

New Mexico continues to remain dedicated in providing small business compliance support, visit the [Small Business Environmental Assistance Program in New Mexico](#) webpage for various resources or contact Teri Waldron for direct small business assistance at teri.waldron@env.nm.gov.



SPOTLIGHT

Administrator Zeldin Takes Additional Measures to Address Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF) Issues for American Farmers and Truckers

On February 3, 2026, EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin took another step to address widespread concerns from farmers, truckers, motor coach operators, and other diesel equipment operators regarding Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF) system failures. As a follow up to new [guidance](#) released in August 2025, EPA is pursuing rulemaking opportunities to provide further relief for Americans. To strengthen the agency's ongoing efforts, EPA is demanding information from major diesel engine manufacturers on critical data from DEF system failures. The data collected will allow EPA to independently evaluate ongoing system failures and help inform next steps the agency takes in 2026 pertaining to DEF. [Read more on the additional DEF actions the agency is taking in press release.](#)

EPA Actions Help Safeguard Water Systems from Cyberattacks

On February 6, 2026, EPA highlighted progress protecting water systems from cyberattacks in 2025. EPA's Office of Water proactively identified cybersecurity vulnerabilities at 277 water systems and worked to fix the issues with individualized solutions ranging from authentication protocols to enforcing strict access controls along with other technical updates and restrictions. Cyber weaknesses included critical system components, such as technologies that control drinking water and wastewater processes, that are attractive targets to potential threat actors. EPA has developed several resources to support water system cybersecurity and [released new online tools in October of 2025](#). [Read more on the agency's actions to protect water systems in the press release.](#)

ASBESTOS UPDATES

In one comprehensive program, the Asbestos and Small Business Ombuds (ASBO) serves two distinct roles: (1) the Asbestos Ombuds (AO) role and (2) the Small Business Ombuds role. EPA's Asbestos Ombudsman role is a requirement defined under the [Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act](#). In response to the AO role, each month the bulletin will also include asbestos-related information, resources and regulatory updates when available.

Learn About Asbestos

Asbestos is a mineral fiber that occurs in rock and soil. Because of its fiber strength and heat resistance asbestos has been used in a variety of building construction materials for insulation and as a fire retardant. Asbestos has also been used in a wide range of manufactured goods, mostly in building materials (roofing shingles, ceiling and floor tiles, paper products, and asbestos cement products), friction products (automobile clutch, brake, and transmission parts), heat-resistant fabrics, packaging, gaskets, and coatings. Where asbestos may be found:

- Attic and wall insulation produced containing [vermiculite](#)
- Vinyl floor tiles and the backing on vinyl sheet flooring and adhesives
- Roofing and siding shingles

- Textured paint and patching compounds used on walls and ceilings
- Walls and floors around wood-burning stoves protected with asbestos paper, millboard, or cement sheets
- Hot water and steam pipes coated with asbestos material or covered with an asbestos blanket or tape
- Oil and coal furnaces and door gaskets with asbestos insulation
- Heat-resistant fabrics
- Automobile clutches and brakes

[Read about the basics on asbestos, where it can be found](#) and learn more about the [EPA Actions to Protect the Public from Exposure to Asbestos](#).

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Stay connected!

Email: asbo@epa.gov

ASBO Hotline: 800-368-5888

Website: [Asbestos and Small Business Ombudsman website](#)

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