

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



FEATURE

EPA's Asbestos and Small Business Ombuds Program Moves to the New Office of Policy and Regulatory Management

On October 20, 2025, the Asbestos and Small Business Ombudsman Program was officially relocated to EPA's Office of Policy and Regulatory Management (OPRM) as part of an agency-wide reorganization effort to better fulfill statutory obligations and provide clean air, water, and land for all Americans. For many years the ASBO program was managed within EPA's Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, where it provided outreach and environmental communication assistance for regulated entities and the public. Under OPRM, ASBO will continue to provide the same small entity engagement and alternative dispute resolutions services as always, now in closer proximity to the regulatory and policy focal point for the agency.

Continue to contact us! Our hotline and ombudsman services remain available to help with your small business regulatory compliance or enforcement questions and general asbestos concerns. The ASBO hotline is available during regular business hours at 1 (800) 368-5888 or via email at asbo@epa.gov.



POLICY AND REGULATION

EPA Proposes Changes to Make PFAS Reporting Requirements More Practical and Implementable, Reducing Regulatory Burden

On November 10, 2025, EPA released a proposal to improve the scope of its perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) reporting regulations under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) to make them more practical and implementable and reduce unnecessary, or potentially duplicative, reporting requirements for businesses while maintaining the ability to obtain important use and safety information on PFAS.

[Read the press release on proposed changes to PFAS reporting.](#)

Extension to Compliance Dates to Certain Applicable Entities Subject to the Regulation of Methylene Chloride

On November 12, 2025, EPA finalized an extension to the compliance dates applicable to certain entities subject to the regulation of methylene chloride promulgated under TSCA. Specifically, EPA is finalizing an 18-month extension of the [Workplace Chemical Protection Program](#) and associated recordkeeping compliance dates for industrial or commercial laboratories that are not owned or operated by federal agencies or contractors acting on behalf of the federal government.

Effective Date: December 15, 2025

[Read the final rule and compliance extension dates in the Federal Register.](#)

Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances

EPA issued a significant new use rules (SNURs) under TSCA for certain chemical substances that were the subject of premanufacture notices and are also subject to an order issued by EPA pursuant to TSCA. The SNURs require entities 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.

Effective Date: January 5, 2026

[Read the SNURs final rule in the Federal Register.](#)

EPA Proposes to Extend the Compliance Deadline for Certain Coal-Fired Facilities

On November 25, 2025, EPA announced a proposal to extend the closure deadline – originally October 17, 2028 – for certain coal combustion residuals (CCR) surface impoundments operating under the alternative closure provisions. Under this proposal the new deadline would be deferred to 2031 for a small subset of owners and operators to cease operation of coal-fired boilers and complete the closure of unlined CCR surface impoundments larger than 40 acres. This extension will promote electric grid reliability by allowing a small subset of baseload coal-fired power producers to continue operating for an additional three years beyond the original deadline.

Deadline to comment: January 7, 2026

[Read the press release on CCR deadline extensions.](#)

Extension of Postponement of Effectiveness for Certain Provisions of Trichloroethylene (TCE)

EPA is extending the effective date for certain regulatory provisions of the [final rule](#) to address the unreasonable risk of injury to health presented by TCE for an additional 90 days. Specifically, this postponement applies to the conditions imposed on the uses with TSCA section 6(g) exemptions. On November 17, 2025, EPA further postponed the conditions imposed on each of the TSCA section 6(g) exemptions until February 17, 2026.

Extension Date: February 17, 2026

[Read the notification of extension on TCE in the Federal Register.](#)

Technical Amendments to Hazardous Chemical Inventory Reporting Requirements Under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA)

EPA is taking direct final action to conform the hazardous chemical inventory reporting regulations under EPCRA to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Hazard Communication Standard amendments of 2012 and 2024.

Effective Date: January 16, 2026 (without further notice, unless EPA receives adverse comment by December 17, 2025)

[Read the EPCRA amendments in the Federal Register.](#)

EPA Issues Final Rule to Extend Unrealistic Biden-Era Compliance Deadlines for Oil and Gas Industry, Saving Hundreds of Millions in Costs

On November 26, 2025, EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin took final action on the agency's July 2025 IFR to extend several compliance deadlines in the Biden-Harris Administration's Clean Air Act (CAA) rules for the oil and gas industry – commonly known as OOOOb/c. By providing more realistic timelines for owners and operators of new and modified oil and natural gas sources, the Trump EPA took an important step in unleashing America's domestic energy supply. The action will impact hundreds of thousands of oil and gas sources across the country and save an estimated \$750 million over 11 years in compliance costs.

[Read the press release on the final rule](#) and [updated information in the Federal Register.](#)

EPA Issues Additional Decisions on Small Refinery Exemptions (SREs)

On November 7, 2025, EPA acted on 16 individual SRE petitions from eight refineries seeking an exemption from their Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) obligations for compliance years 2021–2024. In consultation with the Department of Energy, EPA

reviewed and considered information submitted by each petitioning small refinery. EPA then evaluated each SRE petition consistent with CAA and case law.

[Read the press release on RFS exemptions.](#)



As required under [Section 507 of the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments](#), state Small Business Environmental Assistance Programs (SBEAPs) partner with EPA in providing regulatory compliance assistance to small businesses. Each month, Discover SBEAP highlights a different state SBEAP to help promote the important compliance assistance resources and services they offer to their local small business community.

Pennsylvania's 507 Program in Action

Partnerships between small businesses and SBEAPs are key for adopting innovative, sustainable solutions that benefit their bottom line, the environment, and their communities. For over 30 years, Kaplan's Careful Cleaners, in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania has been a trusted neighborhood business specializing in dry cleaning, tailoring, shoe repair, and laundry. Owner Dale Kaplan has also been a strong advocate for small businesses across the state through his long-standing role as Chair of Pennsylvania's [Small Business Compliance Advisory Committee \(SBCAC\)](#).

Recently, Dale made a major investment in his business's future by decommissioning an aging perchloroethylene dry cleaning machine and replacing it with an aqueous-based cleaning unit. The switch eliminated hazardous chemical use at his facility, reduced compliance obligations, and created a safer workplace for his family, employees and customers alike. To help offset the cost of this cleaner technology, Dale applied for a grant under the state's Department of Environmental Protection's [Small Business Advantage Grant](#), program, administered by the [Small Business Ombudsman's Office](#). With technical guidance from the [Environmental Management Assistance Program \(EMAP\)](#), Pennsylvania's SBEAP housed at Widener University, Dale successfully navigated the application process and secured funding support.

Dale's story illustrates how the three components of Pennsylvania's Section 507 program work together and how small businesses can create effective partnerships with SBEAPs:

1. Pennsylvania's Small Business Ombudsman's Office provides resources and financial assistance.
2. EMAP delivers free and confidential technical support.

3. SBCAC ensures that small business perspectives are part of the state DEP's decision-making process.

To learn more about the Pennsylvania 507 Program and its activities go to the [AskEMAP website](#) or contact the Pennsylvania EMAP Manager, Jeremy Hancher at jwhancher@widener.edu.



2025 Small Business Profiles for Major Metropolitan Areas

Each year, the Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy compiles the latest small business economic activity data for major metropolitan areas in the U.S. The metropolitan area profiles are part of the Office of Advocacy's state profile series, which provides snapshots of national, state, and local small business statistics.

[Read the 2025 small business profiles and report.](#)

EPA Issues Policy Guidance to Help Prevent Catastrophic Wildfires, Promote Use of Prescribed Fires for Mitigation Efforts

On September 16, 2025, EPA issued policy guidance directing regional offices to work with local, state, Tribal, and federal partners to remove barriers in State Implementation Plans that discourage prescribed fires. Prescribed fires are a key tool to reducing the impacts of catastrophic wildfires on communities and businesses. The inability to perform strategic prescribed fires could leave American families more vulnerable to destructive fires. EPA is committed to advancing its core mission of protecting human health and the environment.

[Read more on prescribed fires and the policy guidance in the press release.](#)

EPA Updates Lead Guidance to Accelerate Cleanup of Superfund, Hazardous Waste Sites Across the Nation

On October 20, 2025 the EPA took action to protect Americans from lead exposure by establishing a [new clear approach](#) to accelerate lead cleanup at contaminated sites. EPA is updating guidance and streamlining processes for investigating and cleaning up lead in residential soil at contaminated sites and emphasizing early collaboration with state and local partners to provide multiple layers of protection for communities.

[Read the press release on Superfund acceleration efforts.](#)



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