



SMALLBIZ@EPA

EPA's Asbestos and Small Business Ombuds Program

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE REGULATED SMALL BUSINESS COMMUNITY

April 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

EPA's Guidance Portal Update

On April 10, 2026, the Trump EPA took another major step toward maximum transparency for agency guidance documents, by working hard to revitalize the Guidance Portal's functionality and add new capabilities. In August 2025, EPA relaunched [EPA's Guidance Portal](#), a publicly available website for accessing the agency's guidance documents related to air quality, water protection, hazardous waste management, and more. Building on the work started in President Trump's first term to promote transparency and public access to information, the Guidance Portal serves as a one-stop shop to help individuals and small businesses easily and quickly locate and understand EPA guidance on topics of interest.

Since the relaunch of this centralized database, EPA has been working hard to revitalize the Guidance Portal's functionality and add new capabilities. Now, there are a series of updates to the Guidance Portal, including a new user-friendly search function to allow the public to find documents easily.

The updated EPA Guidance Portal brings much-needed clarity and transparency to small business owners, farmers, and everyday Americans. It also reinforces our commitment to following the law, upholding principles of fundamental fairness, and increasing compliance with environmental requirements.

[Review and learn more at the updated Guidance Portal webpage.](#)



POLICY AND REGULATION

Administrator Zeldin Announces Proposal to Streamline Permitting Requirements for Incinerators Critical to Wildfire Prevention and Natural Disaster Recovery

On March 17, 2026, EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin issued a proposal to harmonize existing Clean Air Act (CAA) regulations and cut red tape for incinerators to help state, local, and Tribal governments prevent and respond to natural disasters. If finalized, EPA's proposal will end decades of confusion surrounding CAA regulations and permits for incinerators, especially regarding how and when they can be utilized for debris cleanup following natural disasters. Public comments received will help inform the development of a proposed rule on advanced recycling.

Comments must be received on or before May 4, 2026.

[Read more on the proposal for the CAA improvements in the press release and make a public comment.](#)

National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Ethylene Oxide Emissions Standards for Sterilization Facilities Residual Risk and Technology Review Reconsideration

On April 5, 2024, EPA published the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP): Ethylene Oxide Emissions Standards for Sterilization Facilities Residual Risk and Technology Review (2024 Final Rule). The 2024 Final Rule revised the Commercial Sterilization Facilities NESHAP based on a residual risk and technology review (RTR) pursuant to the Clean Air Act sections. On March 12, 2025, the EPA announced that it was reconsidering the 2024 Final Rule. Based on its reconsideration of the RTR in the 2024 Final Rule, the EPA is proposing to amend the Commercial Sterilization Facilities NESHAP.

Comments must be received on or before May 1, 2026.

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

EPA's National Priorities List

This rule, that became effective on April 13, 2026, adds one site, Gelman Sciences Inc., to the General Superfund section of the National Priorities List (NPL). These further investigations will allow the EPA to assess the nature and extent of public health and environmental risks associated with the site and to determine what the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) authorized remedial action(s), if any, may be appropriate.

The NPL is a list of national priorities among the known or threatened releases of hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants throughout the United States. The NPL is intended primarily to guide EPA in determining which sites warrant further investigation. CERCLA, as amended, requires that the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan include a list of national priorities among the known releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants throughout the United States.

Effective Date: April 13, 2026.

[Read more on the final rule and the National Priorities List in the Federal Register.](#)

EPA Proposes Emissions Rules for Marine Tank Vessel Loading Operations

On March 5, 2026, EPA proposed to amend Clean Air Act regulations dealing with emissions from industries involved in marine tank vessel loading operations. The emissions regulated include those generated or displaced from a marine vessel's cargo tank when loading bulk liquids containing hazardous air pollutants onto marine tank vessels, including vapor collection and control systems.

Comments must be received on or by April 20, 2026.

[Read more on the proposed rule for marine tank vessel loading operations here.](#)

Dimethylpolysiloxane in Pesticide Formulations; Exemption from the Requirement for a Tolerance

This regulation established an exemption from the requirement of a tolerance for residues of methyl end-capped polydimethylsiloxane; also known as dimethylpolysiloxane when used as an inert ingredient in a pesticide chemical formulation under [40 CFR 180.960](#). This regulation eliminated the need to establish a maximum permissible level for residues of methyl end-capped polydimethylsiloxane on food or feed commodities when used in accordance with these exemptions.

Effective Date: March 25, 2026. Objections and requests for hearings must be received on or before May 26, 2026.

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

Standards of Performance for New Stationary Sources and Emission Guidelines for Existing Sources: Large Municipal Waste Combustors Voluntary Remand Response and Five-Year Review

EPA finalized source performance standards (NSPS) and emission guidelines for the large municipal waste combustion source category. This final rule responds to a voluntary remand of the preceding rule for this source category and announces the results of the non-discretionary review at five-year intervals required by Clean Air Act section 129(a)(5), fulfilling the requirements of a consent decree for the source category.

Effective Date: May 11, 2026.

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



KEY DATES & OPPORTUNITIES

EPA Invites Public Feedback on Key Tool that Supports Water Affordability, Strengthens Practical Clean Water Act Implementation

On March 26, 2026, EPA announced public input on its Clean Water Act Financial Capability Assessment (FCA) guidance. This non-regulatory guidance is an important resource that helps local water bills remain affordable as wastewater systems plan for needed infrastructure upgrades, including for their collection systems, pumps, and treatment plants. Using public feedback, EPA will consider updating the agency's guidance to better reflect ratepayers' ability to support infrastructure upgrades, potential impacts on rural and small communities, and other related topics.

EPA is seeking information and data on issues related to financial capability for communities. After reviewing the public input, the agency will revisit the guidance to address these concerns through possible revisions as part of its ongoing commitment to working with communities to protect human health and ensure practical implementation.

Comments must be received on or by May 26, 2026. EPA also plans to hold two [virtual meetings](#) to discuss the guidance before the public comment period closes.

[Read more on the FCA in the press release or make a public comment.](#)

EPA Releases Proposal to Help Cleanup of Millions of Abandoned Tires, Promote Energy Dominance

On March 20, 2026, EPA issued a proposal to help clean up millions of abandoned tires throughout the U.S., addressing health and safety concerns related to tire piles in American communities. In addition, the proposal would allow the use of abandoned scrap tires as fuel, clearing the path for faster cleanup of tire piles. Approximately 48 million abandoned scrap tires remain in at least 23 states and Tribal lands. The proposal would allow whole abandoned scrap tires to be used in cement kilns as non-waste fuel and allow established tire collection programs to manage all scrap tires used as fuel in the same way. These changes would help reduce risks from scrap tire piles and enhance the recovery of valuable energy resources.

Comments must be received on or by May 22, 2026.

[Read more on the agency's clean-up initiative or make a public comment in the Federal Register.](#)



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.

The Business Case Approach – Nevada BEP

The Nevada [Business Environmental Program \(BEP\)](#) is a statewide resource that has been providing environmental regulatory compliance and permitting assistance to Nevada's business community for over 35 years. Housed within the College of Business at the University of Nevada, Reno, and affiliated with the [Nevada Small Business Development Center \(Nevada SBDC\)](#), the Nevada BEP takes the

approach that there is a strong business case for smart environmental management and regulatory compliance — reducing a business's environmental footprint can also lead to lower operating expenses and a stronger bottom line.

BEP advisors specialize in air quality and permitting assistance, hazardous waste and waste management issues, pollution prevention, and environmental sustainability strategic planning. Nevada BEP services are free and confidential and are provided through one-on-one advising and training classes primarily targeted for small and medium sized businesses no matter their location in the state.

Recently Nevada BEP provided compliance assistance to a facility that had received a multi-agency inspection to assess compliance with wastewater discharge permit requirements. As part of the overall inspection, it was observed that the facility was storing hazardous waste on-site past the allowable accumulation time limit for its generator status. The inspectors recommended that the facility contact BEP for technical assistance. During BEP's on-site consultation, Kat Olson, BEP Hazardous Waste and Pollution Prevention Specialist, discovered that most of the facilities staff was new and the facility was essentially starting from scratch with their hazardous waste management program. Kat advised the staff on the basics of proper hazardous waste management and connected them to additional educational resources. Afterwards, management was able to improve hazardous waste management practices and was prepared for hazardous waste inspections in the future. BEP services and training are often instrumental for facilities with new staff unfamiliar or have not previously worked with hazardous waste.

For Nevada, environmental compliance assistance is also a key ingredient for successful economic development. Nevada BEP works closely with economic development partners across Nevada. When businesses are considering relocating to Nevada or opening a new expansion facility in Nevada, BEP can sit in the early meetings and advise those businesses on the permits and notifications that will be required for establishing a Nevada facility. Businesses regularly comment that these services help streamline the permitting process and this kind of detailed help is unique to Nevada.

Nevada BEP is ready to assist your small business. For more information, visit [Nevada BEP](#) and visit the [BEP Events](#) calendar to see upcoming training opportunities. To request small business assistance, visit the website to [request assistance](#) or call the BEP toll-free hotline: (800) 882-3233. You can also directly contact [Chris Lynch](#), who also currently serves as the chair of the National SBEAP Steering Committee serving the greater National SBEAP network.



EPA Releases Strongest Enforcement and Compliance Results in Years

On March 9, 2026, EPA released enforcement and compliance assurance results for Fiscal Year 2025 and preliminary results for the first year of the Trump Administration. Some of the strongest achievements in years have taken place since President Trump was sworn back into office, including hundreds more civil enforcement cases concluded than the previous year and an unprecedented commitment to helping secure the border. EPA is releasing its Fiscal Year 2025 Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Annual Results Report based on agency actions taken during Fiscal Year 2025. [View the full report now.](#)

[Read more on the agency's enforcement and compliance progress in the press release.](#)

EPA Launches Initiative to Strengthen Support for Water Systems, Maximize Impact to Ensure Clean, Safe Water for All

On March 4, 2026, EPA launched the [Real Water Technical Assistance \(RealWaterTA\)](#) initiative, a back-to-basics approach to support drinking water and wastewater systems using proven, best-practice approaches that will most effectively address local needs while partnering with states and Tribes. In a memorandum, the agency issued a call to action to align all technical assistance for drinking water and wastewater systems with tried-and-true services, such as engineering and design expertise, operational support, workforce development, and financial management.

[Read more on the RealWaterTA initiative in the press release.](#)

Administrator Zeldin Announces Selection of Members to the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee

On March 9, 2026, EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin announced the selection of new members to the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee. The well-qualified experts from a broad range of scientific disciplines bring the experience and expertise needed to provide Gold Standard scientific advice to EPA leadership as they advance the agency's core mission of protecting human health and the environment.

[Read more on the Administrator's committee selection in the press release.](#)

EPA Finalizes Historic New Renewable Fuel Standards to Strengthen American Energy Security, Support Rural Economies

On March 27, 2026, President Trump announced that EPA has finalized the historic Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) "Set 2" final rule. The final rule realigns the program with Congress' original intent—increasing the use of homegrown American biofuels—putting American farmers first and promoting American energy independence. In the 20th year of the RFS program, "Set 2" establishes the renewable fuel volume requirements for 2026 and 2027 at the highest levels in program history.

[Read more on the renewable fuel standards final rule 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.

EPA and DEQ Announce Completion of Swift Asbestos Removal Activities in Park City, MT

On March 4, 2026, EPA, in coordination with Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), successfully completed time-critical cleanup actions of asbestos containing vermiculite at Park City School in Park City, Montana. The swift cleanup helped reopen neighborhood streets and public spaces, supported the safe return of students and restored daily routines for families across Park City.

EPA crews cleared asbestos containing vermiculite across 16 residential properties and 19 road segments. Cleanup operations included excavating affected soil and replacing it with clean backfill and applying hydroseed to control erosion and stabilize restored areas. Together, these actions reduced the potential for asbestos exposure, strengthening human health protections for the local community.

EPA's removal work focused on areas outside the school property lines. Cleanup of the interior and exterior of Park City School was managed separately by Park City School District contractors through an emergency asbestos permit that was issued by DEQ. Compliance with state asbestos regulations helped to ensure the safe occupancy of the school.

EPA and DEQ remain available to respond to questions and will coordinate with Stillwater County on any future actions if needed. For more information, please visit [EPA's Park City School Asbestos Release webpage](#).

[Read more on the successful asbestos removal coordination in the press release.](#)

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Stay connected!

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ASBO Hotline: 800-368-5888

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

