



SMALLBIZ@EPA

EPA's Asbestos and Small Business Ombuds Program

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE REGULATED SMALL BUSINESS COMMUNITY

July 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

SBEAP Annual Training Conference, September 15-17, 2026

Connect, collaborate, and strengthen your environmental impact at the upcoming in-person training and networking event specifically for Small Business Environmental Assistance Program (SBEAP) professionals. This is a prime opportunity to share best practices, discuss emerging challenges, and enhance your program's effectiveness. Join us for three days of targeted training sessions and invaluable peer-to-peer discussions in downtown Denver on September 15–17, 2026. The training sessions will be followed by the Colorado Green Business Network Recognition Event on September 18, 2026. For questions, please contact Gabe Catenacci at gabe.catenacci@state.co.us or 720-908-5481. [Register for the SBEAP Annual Training today.](#)

POLICY AND REGULATIONS

Plywood and Composite Wood Products NESHAP Final Rule

On June 30, 2026, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized amendments to the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) for Plywood and Composite Wood Products (PCWP). Specifically, the agency finalized emission standards for PCWP production processes with unregulated hazardous air pollutant (HAP) emissions. These standards include emission limitations and work practices for PCWP process units and lumber kilns.

This final action is estimated to reduce emissions of HAP and volatile organic compounds from the PCWP source category by approximately 720 and 8,500 tons per year, respectively. The final standards will translate to meaningful emission reductions for PCWP production facilities without imposing excessive and burdensome compliance regulations. PCWP production facilities can comply using controls that are widely available.

[Read more about EPA's finalized amendments to the NESHAP for Plywood and Composite Wood Products.](#)

Federal Plan Requirements for Other Solid Waste Incineration Units That Commenced Construction on or before August 31, 2020, and Have Not Been Modified or Reconstructed after August 29, 2025

On June 30, 2026, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed a Federal Plan for Other Solid Waste Incineration (OSWI) units to provide a more feasible way to implement emission guidelines. The plan applies to units that began construction on or before August 31, 2020, and have not been modified or

reconstructed after August 29, 2025. Under EPA's proposal, OSWI units with capacities less than or equal to 10 tons per day would be able to utilize the substitute means of compliance demonstration, including general testing and monitoring requirements. This would allow for the implementation of current emission guidelines without additional costs while accounting for advancements in technologies and combustion practices.

In June 2025, EPA finalized a rule updating emission guidelines for OSWI, including the "model rule," for states and Tribes to utilize in Clean Air Act plans submitted to EPA for approval. A "model rule" is emission guidelines requirements written in a standard regulation format. If the 2026 proposal is finalized, and a state or Tribe does not have an EPA approved plan in place, they would automatically default to the Federal plan. EPA's new proposal relieves regulatory burden while supporting consistent implementation of emissions guidelines, including the 2025 "model rule".

EPA is committed to making our rules feasible for owners and operators while still fulfilling the agency's mission of protecting human health and the environment. EPA will hold a 45-day public comment period to receive feedback to help inform the final Federal plan.

Comments must be received on or before August 17, 2026.

[Read more about EPA's Federal Plan Requirements for Other Solid Waste Incinerators.](#)

EPA Withdraws Biden-era 2023 Affirmative Defense Rule, Restoring Protections for Energy and Manufacturing Facilities

On May 28, 2026, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) withdrew the 2023 Biden EPA Affirmative Defense Rule to comply with a federal court mandate and restore longstanding protections for manufacturers, energy producers, and other facilities that exceed emissions limits due to unavoidable events such as equipment malfunctions or natural disasters.

The withdrawal reinstates a framework that distinguishes between liability for noncompliance, and situations where noncompliance occurs as a result of circumstances beyond a facility's control. The Trump EPA will continue to hold bad actors accountable for enforcement violations but will no longer unjustly punish good faith operators for emissions caused by sudden, unavoidable events.

Effective Date: June 1, 2026.

[Read more about the withdrawal of the Affirmative Defense Rule.](#)

National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants from Hazardous Waste Combustors: Residual Risk and Technology Review Finalized

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has finalized the residual risk and technology review conducted for the National Emission Standards for Hazardous

Air Pollutants (NESHAP) from Hazardous Waste Combustors. Specifically, EPA has finalized that risks due to emissions of hazardous air pollutants from this source category are adequately addressed by the existing standards; that the NESHAP provides an ample margin of safety to protect public health; and that no developments in practices, processes, or control technologies necessitate revision of the standards.

Effective Date: June 3, 2026.

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

Correction: Extending the Reporting Deadline Under the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Rule for 2025

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has corrected the preamble of a final rule published in the Federal Register on February 27, 2026. The final rule extended the reporting deadline under the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Rule, commonly referred to as the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program, for reporting year 2025 from March 31, 2026, to **October 30, 2026**. This document corrects an inadvertent typographical error in the Federal Register. This correction does not result in any substantive changes to the final rule.

Effective Date: June 5, 2026.

[Read more about the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Rule in the Federal Register.](#)

Exemption From the Requirement for a Tolerance: Resin Acids, Esters with Glycerol in Pesticide Formulations

This regulation established an exemption from the requirement of a tolerance for residues of resin acids, esters with glycerol (CAS Reg. No. 8050-31-5) when used as an inert ingredient (surfactant) on growing crops and raw agricultural commodities pre- and post-harvest. This regulation eliminates the need to establish a maximum permissible level for residues of resin acids, esters with glycerol when used in accordance with the terms of the exemption.

Effective Date: June 18, 2026. Objections and requests for hearings must be received on or before August 17, 2026.

[Read more about the final rule exemption in the Federal Register.](#)

EPA's 2026 Reg Agenda is Now Available

The "2026 Regulatory Plan and the Unified Agenda of Federal Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions" is now published. The Trump Administration's Unified Agenda of Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions (Agenda) reports on the actions administrative agencies plan to issue in the near and long term. Released by the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, the Agenda provides important public

notice and transparency about proposed regulatory and deregulatory actions within the Executive Branch.

[Read more about EPA's preamble to the Agenda and its Regulatory Plan Statement of Priorities.](#)



KEY DATES & OPPORTUNITIES

America's Seed Fund Summit

Join the U.S. Small Business Administration for America's Seed Fund Summit, taking place each Wednesday in the month July. The Summit includes virtual and in-person events connecting entrepreneurs, innovators, and researchers from across the country to the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer programs, also known as [America's Seed Fund](#). The programs are the nation's largest source of early-stage, non-dilutive funding for high-growth technology startups.

[Register to ensure you remain up to date on all things happening throughout the month.](#)

Funding Opportunity: EPA Announces \$25.5 million to Address Wastewater Challenges in Rural, Small, and Tribal Communities

On June 17, 2026, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the availability of \$25.5 million in grant funding for technical assistance providers to help small, rural, and Tribal communities address wastewater infrastructure challenges to protect human health and comply with the Clean Water Act. The work performed under this grant program will advance EPA's Real Water Technical Assistance (RealWaterTA) initiative launched earlier this year to align all technical assistance for wastewater systems with tried-and-true services, such as engineering and design expertise, operational support, workforce development, and financial management.

EPA is accepting applications from water technical assistance providers until August 14, 2026.

[Read more about the funding opportunity and application process.](#)

EPA to Waive Water Infrastructure Loan Program Fees, Remove Barriers for Small Communities

On June 29, 2026, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced it will be waiving fees for small communities who apply for Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) loans in fiscal years 2026 and 2027. By waiving the

WIFIA Application and Credit Processing Fees, small communities can save almost \$200,000 when applying for a WIFIA loan, clearing a notable barrier to accessing funding to improve water infrastructure through this successful program.

The WIFIA program currently has approximately \$11 billion in flexible financing available to support water infrastructure projects across the country, including in small and rural communities where WIFIA can finance up to 80 percent of project costs.

EPA is currently accepting letters of interest.

[Learn more about EPA's WIFIA Program and water infrastructure investments.](#)



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 SmallBiz@EPA to help promote cooperative federalism and the essential compliance assistance services SBEAPs provide around the country to the local small business community.

Florida's Small Business Environmental Assistance Program (SBEAP)

Florida's SBEAP is housed within the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Air Resource Management. Florida's SBEAP helps small businesses achieve and maintain regulatory compliance by providing free and confidential support, education, and outreach through:

- Phone or email consultations to help understand air regulations that apply to your business, or to assist with obtaining appropriate air permits.
- Referrals to other environmental program areas.
- Dissemination of news and information on environmental regulations that may affect small businesses.
- Development of fact sheets, booklets, forms, and other compliance assistance materials.
- Partnerships with various organizations and trade associations to enhance awareness and compliance with environmental regulations.

Florida's SBEAP also works closely with the Division of Air Resource Management's Asbestos and Air General Permit (AGP) Programs to help with developing and maintaining compliance assistance materials, updating rules and procedures, streamlining electronic submittal processes, and providing outreach. In addition to providing assistance with registering for AGPs, the SBEAP also sends out renewal reminders each month to AGP facilities with permits that are near expiration, and updates and disseminates annual compliance calendars for Dry

Cleaners (English and Spanish), Chromium Electroplaters, and Printing Operations to assist with tracking and complying with their industry-specific requirements.

Recently, Florida's SBEAP helped the Asbestos Program with an effort to streamline the electronic asbestos project notification process based on user feedback, and rule changes to provide a discount for submitting electronically. This effort has resulted in cost savings for small businesses and a reduction in the time involved with submitting asbestos project notifications. Florida's SBEAP also helped the AGP Program with enhancing the electronic AGP registration process to improve usability and provide clearer instructions. Additionally, Florida's SBEAP assisted with creating an AGP for asphalt concrete plants with production rates less than 300,000 tpy for batch mix processes and 600,000 tpy for drum mix processes, as well as providing outreach to permitted asphalt plants meeting these criteria. Now, over 90% of asphalt concrete plants in Florida have transitioned to an AGP and saved thousands of dollars in permitting fees.

For more information, visit the Florida [SBEAP website](#) or view the [SBEAP informational flyer](#). To request small business assistance, call the toll-free SBEAP hotline at 1-800-722-7457 or email the SBEAP at Small.Business@FloridaDEP.gov.



SPOTLIGHT

EPA Marks 500 Days of Trump Administration with Another 100 Top Environmental Actions

On June 4, 2026, EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin announced 100 additional pro-environmental actions completed since the Trump EPA's one-year milestone, marking 500 days of delivering clean air, land, and water for all. The 100 actions include major Superfund cleanups, air quality improvements, water infrastructure investments, emergency response efforts, and regulatory streamlining initiatives across all EPA regions and program offices.

[Read more about EPA's top environmental actions.](#)

Trump EPA Announces New Superfund Cleanup Initiative to Prioritize Faster Remediation and Economic Growth for Communities Nationwide

On June 3, 2026, EPA Deputy Administrator David Fotouhi announced the agency's forward-looking [Superfund Solutions initiative](#) to accelerate cleanups of contaminated sites nationwide, including the more than 1,340 Superfund sites on the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL). Through this new long-term initiative, EPA will deploy gold-standard science, streamline decision-making and cut red tape, make swifter clean up decisions, modernize tools, and increase cooperative federalism to deliver human health and environmental protections for communities across the country.

[Read more about the Superfund Solutions initiative.](#)

Task Force Reports Progress Toward Pollution Reduction Goals for Gulf of America

On June 11, 2026, the Gulf of America Hypoxia Task Force, in collaboration with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), reported progress and interim goals to reduce excess nutrients that can enter the Mississippi/Atchafalaya River Basin, flow into the Gulf of America, and impact water quality. A key finding of this report is that state-led actions helped achieve and surpass the nitrogen reduction goal for 2025. EPA and the other federal members of the Task Force will continue to seek new science advancements and help states and Tribes to integrate the findings into the development and implementation of their nutrient reduction strategies.

[Learn more about the Mississippi River/Gulf of America Hypoxia Task Force.](#)



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.

Where is Asbestos Found?

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.

The following are examples of 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

For additional information on where asbestos can be found, review [EPA's Asbestos page](#), the [Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry](#) and learn more about asbestos exposure at the [National Cancer Institute](#).

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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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