



SMALLBIZ@EPA

EPA's Asbestos and Small Business Ombuds Program

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE REGULATED SMALL BUSINESS COMMUNITY

May 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

2026 National Small Business Week

Celebrated this year from May 3-9, National Small Business Week 2026 officially recognizes small businesses for their hard work, ingenuity, dedication, and contributions to the U.S. economy. On May 7th, as part of EPA's commemoration of National Small Business Week, the agency celebrated the outstanding contributions of small business programs during Fiscal Year 2025 at the 36th Annual EPA Administrator's Small Business Program Awards Ceremony. EPA's Asbestos and Small Business Ombuds (ASBO) is proud to participate in this event each year, as well as other federal small business events, such as the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) [Office of Advocacy's 50th Anniversary Open House](#). SBA's event, which took place on April 21st, provided small businesses with the opportunity to share real-life challenges and ideas with Advocacy and federal rule makers aimed at driving positive regulatory change.

Learn more about [National Small Business Week as proclaimed by the U.S. President](#).



POLICY AND REGULATION

EPA Issues Title V Permitting Guidance to Ensure Certainty for American Businesses and Alleviate Permitting Backlogs

On April 17, 2026, EPA issued guidance to streamline the Clean Air Act (CAA) Title V operating permit renewal process. The move provides certainty for businesses operating across the country. The guidance reaffirms EPA's long-standing position that the agency's state, local, and Tribal air permitting partners do not need to require, or be provided with, additional information from the original Title V application to meet CAA requirements when an entity is renewing an unchanged permit.

[Read more about the Title V Permitting Guidance in the press release.](#)

National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Chemical Manufacturing Area Sources Technology Review

EPA has finalized amendments to the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) for the Chemical Manufacturing Area Source categories pursuant to a technology review under Clean Air Act (CAA) section 112(d)(6). Specifically, EPA finalized new leak detection and repair requirements for equipment leaks and heat exchange systems in organic hazardous air pollutant service. In addition, EPA is taking final action to add standards for pressure relief

devices and pressure vessels; require electronic reporting for notification of compliance status, performance test reports, and periodic reports; and require continuous performance testing of non-flare air pollution control devices.

Effective Date: April 1, 2026.

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

Reconsideration of Standards of Performance for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources and Emissions Guidelines for Existing Sources: Oil and Natural Gas Sector Climate Review

EPA is finalizing amendments to the New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) and Emission Guidelines for Existing Sources for the Crude Oil and Natural Gas Source Category in response to petitions for reconsideration of the March 8, 2024, final rule. Specifically, this action finalizes discrete technical changes to two aspects of the rules: first, to the temporary flaring provisions for associated gas in certain situations and also to the vent gas net heating value continuous monitoring requirements and alternative performance test (sampling demonstration) option for flares and enclosed combustion devices.

Effective Date: June 8, 2026.

[Read more about the NSPS amendments in the Federal Register.](#)

New Citrus Tool to Help Prevent Widespread Loss of Citrus Crops and Support America's Food Supply

On April 28, 2026, EPA approved CarriCea T1, a breakthrough citrus rootstock that helps trees defend themselves against citrus greening disease, the bacterial infection that has destroyed more than 90 percent of Florida's citrus production over the past two decades. The approval gives American growers a powerful new tool that fights disease at the source while reducing the need for conventional pesticide sprays. CarriCea T1 works by making precise edits to the citrus tree's own existing genes — not by introducing DNA from other organisms. These edits disrupt the interaction between the citrus plant and the bacteria that cause greening, helping the tree limit infection on its own. EPA will continue working with growers, researchers, and stakeholders to ensure crop protection tools are used responsibly and evaluated with full attention to safety and the long-term resilience of American farms.

[Read more about the CarriCea T1 breakthrough in the press release.](#)

Update to EPAAR Text of Provisions and Clauses, Signing of Uniform Hazardous Wastes Manifests

EPA is proposing a new EPAAR, Provision and Clause in Solicitation Provisions and Contract Clauses, and Environmental, Conservation, Occupational Safety, and Drug-Free Workplace. The agency currently has a local clause, which involves the

signing of Uniform Hazardous Waste Manifests for Superfund sites. The new clause will enable contractors to sign the Waste Manifest at EPA worksites for the removal of hazardous and non-hazardous materials at both Superfund and non-Superfund sites. The addition of the new clause will allow work to continue when EPA personnel are not present at the worksite.

Comments must be received on or before June 8, 2026.

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



KEY DATES & OPPORTUNITIES

SBA Announces New "Made in America Loan Guarantee" to Restore Manufacturing Dominance

On March 31, 2026, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) announced that small manufacturers across the country will soon be eligible for enhanced support through their International Trade Loan (ITL) Program beginning May 1, 2026. The loans, which come with a 90% federal guarantee, will help manufacturers expand facilities, hire workers, and increase production. In addition, SBA recently [expanded](#) ITL eligibility to include small businesses across the food supply chain, including those in the agriculture, production, and logistics industries.

[Read more about SBA's Made in America Loan Guarantee in the press release.](#)



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.

Eleanor Divver of Utah Receives EPA Administrator's Small Business Award

The Utah Small Business Environmental Assistance Program (SBEAP), located within the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), provides free support and guidance about environmental regulations to Utah small businesses as well as multi-media environmental support and permit assistance statewide. The Utah Small Business Ombudsman and SBEAP Coordinator serves as a liaison, helping

businesses address a wide range of environmental questions and complaints—most commonly related to air and water quality.

During 2026 National Small Business Week, EPA recognized the vital role small businesses and compliance assistance resources within the states play in advancing the agency's mission to protect human health and the environment. On May 7, 2026, Eleanor Divver received the Administrator's Award for "*Outstanding Accomplishments by a Small Business Trade Association or State Small Business Environmental Assistance Provider in Providing Technical Environmental Assistance to the Small Business Community*" at the 36th Annual Administrator's Small Business Program Awards Ceremony. Eleanor and the Utah DEQ/SBEAP were honored for their outstanding outreach and assistance to small businesses nationwide through their exemplary leadership in hosting the 2025 National SBEAP Annual Training Conference. Thanks to Eleanor and the Utah SBEAP team, SBEAP programs across the country remained engaged and continued to collaborate on technical environmental assistance for regulated small businesses.

Utah remains dedicated to supporting small business compliance. Visit [Utah's Small Business Environmental Assistance Program webpage](#) for resources or contact Eleanor Divver directly at edivver@utah.gov for small business assistance in Utah.



SPOTLIGHT

EPA Launches PFAS OUT Initiative to Help Proactively Address PFAS in Drinking Water

On April 14, 2026, EPA Assistant Administrator for Water Jess Kramer launched a new initiative called PFAS OUTreach—or PFAS OUT. This new effort works with communities and water systems to reduce exposure to PFOA and PFOS in drinking water, years ahead of compliance with federal regulatory requirements. The initiative is a proactive approach to provide information on resources, including funding and technical assistance, to drinking water systems with PFAS challenges. This outreach will provide practical, interactive location-specific resources, including webinars and information on how to access funding and technical assistance to address PFAS.

[Learn more about the PFAS OUT Initiative in the press release.](#)

EPA Launches New Lead Website in Renewed Trump EPA Focus on Reducing Lead Exposures

On April 24, 2026, EPA announced the release of new public education tools about lead poisoning prevention, including a new StoryMap about [Lead and Children's Health](#) and [EPA's lead website](#). The revamped website streamlines navigation to allow parents and caregivers, contractors, health care professionals, and other

users to quickly find critical information on how to prevent exposures from lead that may be contained in paint and dust, drinking water, air, and soil. The website serves as a one-stop shop for EPA information on lead and quickly connects users to resources, tools and guidance. In addition to the lead StoryMap and revamped website, EPA added new search functions to its website to aid public education and information organization.

[Read more on the agency's lead initiatives and the new website in the press release.](#)

Administrator Zeldin Announces Selection of Members to the Science Advisory Board

On April 17, 2026, EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin announced the selection of new members to the [Science Advisory Board \(SAB\)](#). 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. The newly appointed SAB will consist of a chair and 36 members. Of those members, 19 received dual appointments to the SAB and either one of its five SAB subcommittees or the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee.

[Read more about the SAB selections 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.

How Can People Be Exposed to Asbestos?

Asbestos fibers may be released into the air by the disturbance of asbestos-containing material during product use, demolition work, building or home maintenance, repair, and remodeling. In general, exposure may occur only when the asbestos-containing material is disturbed or damaged in some way to release particles and fibers into the air.

If you have concerns about asbestos exposure, contact EPA's Asbestos Ombudsman Hotline at 1-800-368-5888. The [Asbestos and Small Business Ombudsman \(ASBO\)](#) operates a toll-free hotline to receive asbestos-related complaints, and to provide general assistance to the public, as it relates to asbestos issues and as required by the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) of 1986.

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

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Email: asbo@epa.gov

ASBO Hotline: 800-368-5888

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

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